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WORLD OF SPORT
Euro 96 wrap-up
It's ALL in the WORLD OF SPORT TODAY



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz at the PM's office in Jerusalem yesterday. (Ariel Jerusalem)

Shas, NRP threaten to quit coalition

SARAH HONIG

SHAS last night escalated its battle with the National Religious Party by threatening to quit the coalition if it is not given the Religious Affairs portfolio by tomorrow. The NRP responded with an identical threat. This underscores the fact that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu continues to be beset by two coalition problems — the Religious Affairs portfolio and the national infrastructure ministry he wants to create for Ariel Sharon. Netanyahu would like to see both problems resolved before he leaves on July 9 for his Washington meeting with President Bill Clinton. Religious Affairs, though a minor portfolio, is of major significance as a source of clout in the religious community. A sharp split in the party, the NRP and Shas finally agreed to joint custody, but now each wants to go first, fearing the other might renege on the rotation deal. Netanyahu had already decided in favor of Shas, but vehement protests from the NRP caused him to delay the final decision until his return from Washington. This reportedly elicited a furious response from Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, who had scheduled a session of the party's Council of Torah Sages for today. This is seen as an ultimatum: Shas wants the promise it had won implemented at once. As it sees it, NRP pressure is the only reason for the delay. But Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that the NRP had consulted with the leading religious-Zionist rabbis and had decided to "take this issue to the end."

One Likud source described Netanyahu as being "trapped between the devil and the deep blue sea, and all for a portfolio which is the last one one would figure on as a source of contention." To make matters worse, the Degel Hatorah faction of United Torah Judaism is under orders from its mentor Rabbi Elyezer Schach to demand the portfolio as well. Meanwhile, Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman has made no headway in getting ministers to yield any of their departments to the new ministry to be created for Sharon. Ne'eman had been entrusted by Netanyahu with putting the new ministry together and ironing out the legal kinks. A meeting between Netanyahu and the two NRP ministers, Hammer and Transportation and Energy Minister Yitzhak Levy, failed to convince Levy to yield anything from either of his portfolios. Some reports claim that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is also refusing to make a sacrifice for Sharon. It had been assumed that he would cede control of the military industries without too great a fuss, but now, sources say, he has let Ne'eman know that this is not his intention. At this point, no one in the Likud can predict when Sharon might join the government and in what capacity. The simmering problem is a potential source of trouble for Netanyahu, as Sharon can mount a powerful internal opposition to him. In a related development, Shas leader Aryeh Deri categorically denied that he is contemplating retiring from politics or that he had asked Yosef to allow him to resign as an MK. Recent rumors claim that Deri told Yosef some 10 days ago that he wants to quit politics.

PM, Peretz discuss privatization

MICHAL YUDELMAN

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said he will consider Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz's proposal to set up a social-economic council — to include government and Histadrut representatives and to be headed by the prime minister — to coordinate the government's economic moves. This was agreed to at a meeting held between Peretz and Netanyahu yesterday afternoon, at the prime minister's initiative, to discuss the government's economic program. Peretz said the meeting, which lasted for more than half an hour, was held in a positive atmosphere, although both sides stuck to their

positions. Netanyahu promised to hold another meeting with Peretz and Finance Minister Dan Meridor after the government completes its debate on proposed economic cuts. Peretz asked Netanyahu to make the Histadrut a partner to the government's economic plans for privatization, budgetary cuts and other moves affecting the workers' future and conditions. "I expressed my concern that economic measures might be taken in a unilateral and sweeping manner, endangering the lower-income earners and creating unemployment,"

Peretz said after the meeting. "I demanded that the government make an unequivocal announcement that it would recognize and honor signed wage, pension and cost-of-living increment agreements." He added that the prime minister responded "in a positive manner and said he would see to it that the weaker classes are protected at every step." The two men agreed to hold regular meetings to present their demands and to maintain open channels of communications. Histadrut leaders hope the meeting will lead to cooperation between the government and the labor federation.

Netanyahu may visit Jordan before US

DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is considering visiting Jordan before he goes to the US next week, but is concerned that such a visit would be seen as a snub by Egypt, senior officials in Jerusalem indicated. Netanyahu has an affinity for Jordan, and by making Amman his first visit as prime minister, he would underscore this. Netanyahu is believed to see eye to eye with King Hussein on the need to constrain Palestinian ambitions for statehood. They also share concern about terror groups harbored in Syria. During the recent Arab summit, King Hussein complained about Syria permitting

infiltrations across its border into Jordan. While in opposition, Netanyahu held at least eight meetings with either Hussein or Crown Prince Hassan. At the same time, Egypt remains the leading country in the Arab world. In 1992, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin visited Cairo before making his first trip to Washington as a symbolic gesture of cooperation. Piqued by the hard-line stance taken by Cairo at the Arab summit, Netanyahu is not thought to be keen on visiting Egypt right

now, but he does want to keep his options open in dealing with Cairo. Jordanian Ambassador Omar Rifai said that whenever Netanyahu would like to come, "we will welcome him. It is only a matter of scheduling. If he comes in the next few days, it's fine. If he does not come until after he goes to Washington, this is also fine." He sharply denied a report that Jordan is seeking to publicly distance itself from Israel in fear that it may be isolated among the Arabs. "Amman has a solid and open relationship with Israel," he declared. "We feel no reason to be embarrassed about this. There is no insecurity in the relationship." Meanwhile, while the centerpiece of Netanyahu's trip to the US will be a White House meeting with President Bill Clinton on Tuesday, the visit will also include a meeting with Republican presidential nominee Robert Dole in New York on Friday. Next Tuesday, Netanyahu is tentatively scheduled to see Clinton, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defense Secretary William Perry, and CIA chief

Mubarak warns of impending terror attacks

ELDAD BECK

PARIS EGYPTIAN President Hosni Mubarak has warned of a new wave of terror attacks in response to the election of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. He also expressed hope that this would not lead Israel to stop the peace process. Mubarak, on a private visit to France, made the comments while meeting yesterday in Paris with Henry Hajdenberg, chairman of the French Jewish community. Hajdenberg told *The Jerusalem Post* that Mubarak insisted that Israel respect all its agreements relating to the peace process, and "keep the process alive at all costs, despite the obstacles that might appear." Mubarak added that the "three

Funding may be cut for successful road accident study project

HAIM SHAPIRO

ROAD accidents can be reduced by increasing traffic police enforcement, according to a study carried out by Hebrew University experts. However, the study project is in danger of being canceled for a budgetary reason. The project was carried out in the Netanya area and headed by Prof. Jerry Ben-David and Zvi Weinberg of the Jerusalem College of Technology, and Dr. Eliahu Richter of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health, in coordination with Metnasa, an organization combating road accidents. The study tested the use of cameras recording speed, in conjunction with fines and warnings to drivers, and found that this significantly reduced drivers' speed. More important, there was a 45 percent drop in the number of those injured and killed in road accidents in the

Mandela to visit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

SOUTH African President Nelson Mandela will make a landmark visit to Israel on August 19-20. Mandela, who has been a champion of the Palestinian cause, will also visit Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and Jordan's King Hussein. President Ezer Weizman extended the invitation while attending Mandela's inauguration in May 1994. Both Arafat and Hussein have also extended invitations to the South African leader. Mandela is likely to be the first head of state to visit the Netanyahu government. South African Ambassador Malcolm Ferguson indicated that no political meaning should be read into the timing of the visit, but rather it reflected an opening in Mandela's schedule. Ferguson said Mandela can be expected to press for Israeli-Palestinian talks. "When the president comes in August, you can expect him to voice unequivocal support for the Middle East peace process. He will certainly urge the parties to maintain a genuine dialogue," Ferguson said.

400,000 strike over economic plans

MICHAL YUDELMAN

MORE than 400,000 workers held a one-hour warning strike yesterday in response to the Histadrut's call to protest the government's anticipated economic measures and privatization plans. "I am sure the government now understands that its ability to make economic moves, and to succeed in them, depends on a fair distribution of the burden and on cooperation with the workers," Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz said after the strike. Meanwhile, a significant sign of an impending economic slowdown emerged yesterday, when the Bank of Israel said its index of integrated indicators declined in May by 0.7 percent, in comparison with the previous month, the first contraction in more than three years in this broad measurement of the economy's overall vitality. The Central Bureau of Statistics reported that the pace of growth in factory orders for equipment and machinery slowed during the April-May period to 6%-7%, after having stood at 13%-17% during the previous two months, and 17%-20% during the second half of last year. (Story, Page 8)

The main protest meeting took place at Ben-Gurion Airport, where thousands of technicians, engineers, and ground workers gathered to listen to union leaders and Peretz. "We say to the government, let's go together [on the privatization plans]. Hear our demands and the principles we insist upon. We have more experience in this than you do," Peretz said. The workers expressed fear that the moves planned by the government will lead to mass dismissals and the violation of existing wage, pension, and cost-of-living increment agreements. Airport Authority union chairman Pinhas Idan rejected criticism that the strike was political, stressing: "I'm a sworn Likud supporter, but we won't let any government, no matter who heads it, endanger our livelihood. I've been working here for 20 years, and there is a danger that people will find themselves jobless, after working for 20 or 30 years." The Haifa Port workers stated that they wouldn't let the government privatize them, and attacked Peretz for his willingness to discuss the possibility of privatization with the government. Haifa Histadrut chairman Baruch Saltz promised the workers: "We will not sit down to hear about privatization in any circumstances, and this includes Peretz. The Haifa Port will not be privatized." "They had better not mess with us. We'll show them they can't take the ports away from us," one union leader said. Another large gathering took place outside the TAAS-Israel Industries building in Ramat Hasharon, where Histadrut executive member Pinner Shomer and union leader Haim Zweig addressed thousands of workers. (Continued on Page 2)

The strike concentrated mainly in the public sector. At 10 a.m., hundreds of thousands abandoned their desks and work stations to attend protest meetings. Trains, ports, and airports ground to a halt, hospitals went on Shabbat schedules, and the Fire Department and Magen David Adom switched to emergency services only. The banks, stock market, and business sector received permission from the Histadrut to schedule their protest meetings earlier in the morning, before business hours, when the least damage would be caused.

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מי עדן
השמפניה של הטבע

Ra'anan Cohen to head Labor faction

MK Ra'anan Cohen was chosen yesterday to be Labor's Knesset faction chairman. Cohen, who ran against MK Yossi Beilin, won 17-15. There were two abstentions. This will be Cohen's second consecutive term as faction head. Although all the Labor MKs are careful to say the party is united, and there are no camps operating within it, Cohen is considered to be particularly close to Ehud Barak who is considered a rival to Haim Ramon.

"The faction will operate against the coalition and against the Likud and bring about a change in government as soon as

LIAT COLLINS

possible," Cohen said. "From here, we'll stride together in one direction: a direction of hope and unity."

Beilin said the faction had proven it is possible to hold internal elections without hatred and unpleasantness. "Now we must act as the watchdog of the peace process," he said.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres also stressed the importance of preserving party unity and not interpreting the elections as a victory for this or that camp. He said

the opposition's job is to criticize the work of the government. Both Peres and Cohen support the idea of establishing a shadow government.

MK Haggai Meron, who is considered close to Beilin, did not rule out the possibility that the party is divided. "It could be that there was a matter of camps involved [in the election]," he said. "We'll have to see what happens with the rest of the allocation of positions." "I don't have a camp in Labor. It's all in the mind of the media," said Barak. "Beilin is one of Labor's most important MKs."

Ezra: Lift closure, deploy from Hebron

ISRAEL should lift the months-old closure on the territories and proceed with the redeployment in Hebron, Likud MK Gideon Ezra said yesterday. "Terrorists don't use Israeli permits, so they can still find other ways in, while the closure punishes those who seek to follow the law," he said.

Ezra, a former deputy head of the General Security Services, made the comments yesterday during a Peace Now-sponsored meeting with about 100 Israeli and Palestinian youths from Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Later, in response to a question from the audience, Ezra said the new government should abide by the Oslo accords, while moving "slowly" on issues such as Hebron.

Ezra added that he would object to the presence of Palestinian police armed with Kalashnikov rifles in Hebron, but would have no objection to them carrying

YOCHI DREAZEN

handguns.

When asked whether he was in favor of building new settlements, Ezra said that care should be taken not to provoke new quarrels with the Palestinians.

"Before building new ones, we should fill all of the empty houses," he said. "New settlements should be built in places where they are needed, like Efrat, but we must proceed carefully." While most of the event proceeded calmly, tempers flared on the subjects of Jerusalem and the IDF's behavior during the intifada. First, a Palestinian from Ramallah said he would "be the first one to fight and throw stones" if Israel refused to divide Jerusalem. Another Palestinian told Ezra that no matter how many rights they may be given in Jerusalem, they will always view Israelis as "occu-

Hebron Jews gratified by visit of Shas ministers

EVELYN GORDON

RESIDENTS of Hebron and Kiryat Arba expressed cautious optimism yesterday after a tour of the area by two Shas cabinet members.

Interior Minister Eli Shais and Labor Minister Eli Yishai arranged the tour to study the security problems which might be caused by redeployment in Hebron.

"I think it is better to see for yourself than to hear about things," Shais explained at a press conference after the visit. "I don't see how I could go to a cabinet meeting, express an opinion and vote without being here on the ground."

Shais said the visit had given him a better understanding of the complexity of the situation, but declined to say whether that meant he would oppose a redeployment.

"I am convinced that the matter is even more complicated than I had previously thought," he said. "But I think our tour here in Hebron today is only one side of the problem. We also need to hear the other side, which is the diplomatic side -- to see what our commitments are and what the agreements are, and then to try to tie it all together -- and come up with the best solution."

Hebron spokesman David Wilder said the community was pleased that the two had taken the trouble to come and see the residents' side of the picture, even if they did not express unequivocal support afterwards.

"It's very important that these people come to visit Hebron," he said. "Of course we'd be happy if they came down and gave us the same kind of support we received from [Likud MK Ariel] Sharon ... But this is one of the first times we've seen any real desire on [Shas'] part to understand the issues from our point of view, and we view that very positively."

Kiryat Arba spokesman Tzvi Popovitch expressed similar sentiments, noting that Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef had made a "great contribution" to the residents' cause by asking then prime minister Shimon Peres to delay the redeployment earlier this spring.

"We hope this line will continue," he said. "But they didn't come to make declarations. They came to learn."

In other news, a young woman from Hebron was attacked by three Arab women yesterday morning while she was walking from Beit Hadassah to Tel Rumeida. According to residents, the women bit her, scratched her, pulled her hair and tried to drag her into a house, but she succeeded in escaping.

Boaz Goldberg, spokesman for the police's Judea and Samaria region, said the police are not investigating the incident because no complaint was filed.

"This [incident] is very serious," Wilder said. "It's also only the beginning of what would happen if the army redeployed in Hebron."

Wallerstein wins election for territories council

PINHAS Wallerstein, head of the Binyamin Regional Council, was voted the new chairman of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria yesterday, in a victory for the settlement movement's ideological wing.

However, the vote may also widen the rift between the ideological wing and the more pragmatic, largely secular wing.

Wallerstein was elected by a vote of 14-0, with one abstention, after six council heads left the room in protest. The six were supporters of rival candidate Shlomo Katan, mayor of Alfei Menashe, who favors shifting the council's focus to municipal rather than ideological issues.

Katan decided not to run after the council rejected his faction's motion that only local council heads be allowed to vote. Currently, eight public figures have voting rights on the council in addition to the 23 local council

EVELYN GORDON

heads. Most of the former group which includes figures such as former Tehiya MK Elyakim Ha'etzi, Kiryat Arba Rabbi Eliezer Waldman and settlement activist Benny Katzover -- are identified with the council's ideological wing.

"It is clear to me that [the public figures] vote as a bloc, and that the council will therefore continue to be a branch of Gush Emunim," Katan said, adding that his bloc will meet in the near future to consider their next steps. "This isn't democracy. The council represents a minority of the settlers today, because it doesn't represent the large urban settlements."

However, council spokesman Yehiel Leiter pointed out that since only four of the public figures actually voted, Wallerstein received the votes of a majority of the council heads as well -- includ-

ing some of the heads of the large urban settlements.

"This is clearly a victory for the ideological strain within the council," he said. "Particularly now that the Likud is in power, there's a need for a strong ideological bloc on the right."

The fact that Wallerstein is "one of the most well liked" of the member council heads also made the opposition's task more difficult, he noted.

"[Wallerstein] is one of the most supportive council heads, and he's also one of the most involved [in the Council of Jewish Communities]," Leiter said.

Wallerstein is replacing Yisrael Harel, who has headed the Council of Jewish Communities since its founding. A native of Haifa, Wallerstein now resides in Psagot with his wife and seven children. He has headed the Binyamin regional council since its inception 16 years ago.

Egypt to raise issue of US objectivity in peace talks

CAIRO (AP) -- President Hosni Mubarak will raise the question of whether the United States is tilting toward Israel in the Middle East peace talks when he visits Washington in late July, Egypt's foreign minister says.

Mubarak expects to discuss the American role as a mediator in the talks when he sees President Clinton, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said in an interview published yesterday in the opposition *Al-Arabi* newspaper.

"The American role in the peace process is important and it is based on the principle that Washington should be an objective mediator," Moussa was quoted as saying.

"There are criticisms that the United States is not objective toward the policy of Israel, and this must

discussed between the two leaders," he added.

Moussa's comments underline the sentiment in Egypt and the Arab world that the United States dropped its objectivity in supporting Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's call for resuming peace talks without "pre-conditions."

"Although American officials have said the United States has not changed its position," Christopher's statements unleashed a torrent of criticism in government-run Egyptian newspapers.

Editorials decried the United States as a dishonest broker in the talks. On Sunday, the state-run daily *Al-Ahbar* ran a cartoon depicting Christopher in the guise of a well-known Egyptian actor who usually plays the role of a fool.

Hizbullah gunmen attack in zone

HIZBULLAH gunmen attacked with mortars and machine-gun fire at a main crossing point on the northern perimeter of the security zone early yesterday, as the organization maintained its pressure on the South Lebanese Army.

There were no casualties in the attack on the checkpoint, near Huleh village. IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has reportedly given an assurance that the organization will not launch any attacks on Israel if the IDF withdraws from the zone.

The guarantee was apparently

DAVID RUDGE

given in an interview with a US-based magazine, *Middle East Insight*, and was quoted in yesterday's edition of *Ha'aretz*.

The report said Nasrallah was doubtful that Israel would be willing to withdraw, despite his assurances and those of the Lebanese government.

He also reportedly cast doubts over Israel's intention to uphold the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which ban attacks on civilians on both sides of the border.

Hizbullah leaders have in the past indicated that the organiza-

tion would cease its so-called resistance activities if the IDF were to withdraw from south Lebanon, but it has not stated so categorically.

The fate of the SLA and especially its leaders, however, is more clear. Hizbullah has threatened to take revenge on those who have aided the "Zionist enemy," while the Beirut government has already begun steps to try them for treason.

Lebanese observers in Israel said that even if Nasrallah was quoted correctly, his comments were probably designed for international consumption.

IAI to maintain and upgrade Airbus passenger jet

ISRAELI Aircraft Industries has become the representative for the maintenance and upgrading of the Airbus passenger jet, the company said yesterday.

IAI's Bedek division will service the Airbus jets, including the A-300 and A-310 models. Starting in 1997, Airbus plans on manufacturing 14 jets monthly.

Airbus deputy director-general Gerard Mirrai said the decision to authorize IAI as his company's representative came after a long

STEVE RODAN

examination of the company and its performance.

David Arzi, Bedek director, said the decision is significant for IAI. "For Bedek, it has been a dream come true," he said. "We have always respected Airbus. We are aware of the tremendous competition, but we had ambitions to achieve a permanent relation with Airbus. This is a connection that is very important to us, and we

will treat it with the utmost seriousness."

Arzi said he hopes that Israeli airlines, such as Arkia, will buy jets from Airbus and benefit from Bedek services.

Airbus has been operating for 26 years. It is a product of a consortium that includes British Aerospace, Deutsch Aerospace, and Aerospaciale.

Last month, the company had 2,000 orders and had already supplied 661 jets.

IDF sets up inquiry into officer electrocuted in training accident

THE IDF has set up an inquiry into the electrocution of Second-Lt. Assaf Abani during a training exercise Sunday, when an antenna on his communications equipment hit a high-voltage power line in the Kfar Shmuel area, near Ben-Shemen.

Ahani, 21, of Karmiel, was buried yesterday afternoon at the Tsur Shalom cemetery in Kiryat Bialik. More than 1,000 people attended the funeral, including Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar, whose son grew up with Assaf. "He was the pride of the class, his first officer," he said.

According to a preliminary

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investigation, there were faults in the planning of the exercise and those who were in command are expected to be held responsible.

MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) submitted a parliamentary question to the defense minister asking him to explain what conclusions were reached and what measures were taken as a result of the deaths of three soldiers in similar accidents in south Lebanon two years ago.

"Why weren't the operative conclusions of those investigations implemented? Why weren't

the height of antennas decreased as a result of inquiries?" Chazan said.

She has called for the establishment of an independent body to investigate IDF accidents.

After the 1994 accidents, the chief of general staff appointed a committee of inquiry that issued a series of steps to prevent such an accident from recurring.

Ahani was riding in a command car when the accident occurred.

According to a senior IDF officer, "It is not feasible that such an accident should happen to a cadet during an officer's training course. It's absurd."

JORDAN

(Continued from Page 1)
John Deutch. He will be feted at a reception hosted by Vice President Al Gore. On Wednesday, he will address a joint session of Congress, and speak to the National Press Club.

On Thursday, Netanyahu will make a key address to top American industrialists in New York, along with Finance Minister Dan Meridor and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, in a bid to woo more investment to Israel. This is one of the reasons that Netanyahu is seeking to push through a budget agreement now.

On the same day, Netanyahu will address thousands of Jewish activists under the sponsorship of the Jewish Community Relations Council and will also address the

CONFERENCE

Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Netanyahu, whose wife Sara and sons Yair and Avner will accompany him, will spend Shabbat in New York before returning home.

MUBARAK

(Continued from Page 1)
ness" of Netanyahu -- no to the division of Jerusalem, and to withdrawal from the Golan, and to the establishment of a Palestinian state -- put all Arab leaders in a very difficult position regarding public opinion in their countries.

Mubarak met last night with French President Jacques Chirac and discussed the future of the peace process.

STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1)
Shomer said the workers are alarmed by reports of plans to unilaterally privatize, without coordinating with the workers.

Doron Tamir, chairman of Manufacturers Association of labor committee estimated the strike's damage at NIS 20 million, noting that hardly any disruptions were caused in the business sector.

Tamir blasted the strike as "unnecessary and premature. The Histadrut is shooting from the hip for no reason. There isn't any economic program yet. I have no doubt that when the time comes for practical moves, nobody will forget the Histadrut, and every move will be discussed with the Histadrut and the employers."

Irim

12 injured in accident

Twelve people were injured, three of them seriously, in an accident on the Coastal Road near the Wingate Institute at 5:15 yesterday morning.

A car, driven by a 19-year-old from Petah Tikva and illegally carrying six passengers -- one in the trunk -- was returning from a party, when it swerved and hit the van on its right.

The two vehicles then ran off the road into a ditch. There were five people in the van. Police attributed the accident to the lack of sleep and inexperience of the car's driver, who obtained his driver's license three weeks ago.

Irim

Bicycle trekkers leave Kiryat Shmona for Eilat

In what is billed as the longest bicycle trek in Israel's history, cyclists took off from Kiryat Shmona on a trip that will take them 800 kilometers down to Eilat, via dozens of cities, villages and nature sites around the country.

The bicycle trip, which was organized by the association of community centers, will be covered daily on Educational TV. Its theme is "The challenge -- good manners on the roads," and its purpose is to promote road safety and discovering the country. The cyclists are scheduled to arrive in Eilat in August.

Irim

Curfew on Bidiya lifted

THE IDF lifted the curfew yesterday on the village of Bidiya, near Ariel, that was imposed after police First-Sgt. Meir Alush was killed and his wife, Nitza, wounded in a terror attack there on June 16.

Machpela Cave to close on July 7

THE Machpela Cave will be closed to both Jews and Arabs for a few days starting on July 7, the army announced yesterday. The IDF Spokesman said the temporary closure is a routine measure, which takes place every four months, to enable the force guarding the cave to conduct training exercises and to permit repairs. The army did not say how long the closure would last.

Evelyn Gordon

DEPARTURES
Mrs. Raya Juglows, President Israel Friends of the Tel Aviv University in Geneva and Causes to attend the faculties of the Tel Aviv University.

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Kahalani visits Ayalon Prison

RAINE MARCUS

INTERNAL Security Minister Avidor Kahalani visited Ramle's Ayalon Prison yesterday and was briefed on the problems that the Prisons Service faces. He chatted with prisoners in their cells and was given first-hand accounts on life in prison. After his visit, Kahalani said that the wardens' job was not an easy one and is in most cases thankless, adding that the ministry and Prisons Service must realize that they are dealing with human beings and should do everything to ensure that prisoners' self-respect and dignity are maintained. In the past few years, Prisons Service Commissioner Arye Bibi has launched a major drive to rehabilitate prisoners who are addicted to drugs. Kahalani stressed that rehabilitation is of the utmost importance, but he expressed concern that drugs are so available in prisons. Kahalani's predecessor Moshe Shabat started a project whereby police lock-ups would come under the jurisdiction of the Prisons Service, to solve the problems of overcrowding and escapes. Kahalani said he would continue the project.



A group of children with cancer are given a tour of Tel Aviv police headquarters yesterday by Tel Aviv police chief Gabi Lash. The 40 children, accompanied by actress Gilia Almagor (upper right), were given a demonstration of trained police dogs sniffing out drugs and explosives. (Text: Raine Marcus; Photo: Dana Steiner/Israel Sima)

Meretz petitions against Pinhasi appointment

EVELYN GORDON

MERETZ yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to prevent the appointment of MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas) as chairman of the Knesset House Committee. The petition is based on the indictment which is pending against him for tax fraud and violations of the party funding laws. According to the draft indictment, Pinhasi illegally hired yeshiva students, who are forbidden by law to work while they are deferring their army service, to work for Shas in the 1988 election campaign. He failed to pay taxes for these workers, and he also allegedly submitted a false set of books to the state comptroller. The Knesset originally decided in March 1993 to lift Pinhasi's immunity so that he could stand trial. Pinhasi then petitioned the High Court against this decision, and the court ordered a revote. During the revote, which took place in July 1993, the Knesset decided not to lift his immunity. Therefore, Pinhasi has never stood trial.

However, the petition noted, in response to a petition asking that Pinhasi not be allowed to serve as a deputy minister, the High Court ruled that the crimes with which he was charged "appear to indicate a 'moral defect' in his behavior, and can be classified as crimes which, under the circumstances, involve moral turpitude." The petition argued that it is improper for someone suspected of such crimes to head the House Committee, which is responsible for upholding House rules, because this would damage public faith in the committee's decisions and in the rule of law in general. In particular, the petition said, it is wrong for the House Committee, which has the job of deciding whether to lift MKs' immunity, to be headed by someone who did everything possible to avoid having his own immunity lifted. The problem is heightened by the fact that Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair is considering asking the new Knesset to revoke on lifting Pinhasi's immunity, the petition added. It is therefore possible that Pinhasi would be heading the committee which decides his own fate. Lior Collins adds: Pinhasi said if he is elected to chair the House Committee he would not run the meetings on Ben-Yair's request that his immunity be lifted. "Even though a legal opinion I received indicated there is no reason I should not chair the committee, even during debates on lifting political immunity, I decided to announce my intention at this stage not to do so in order to prevent slanderous talk," Pinhasi said in a letter he sent Speaker Dan Tichon. Knesset legal adviser Zvi Inbar is expected to state his opinion on the subject within a couple of days.

1,200 illegal Arab workers found in center of country last month

RAINE MARCUS

MORE than 1,200 Arabs from the territories illegally in Israel were rounded up last month in the central district, according to Cmdr. Shlomo Aharonishky, chief of the Central District, responsible for patrolling the Green Line. Aharonishky was speaking yesterday following a dawn raid in the Green Line area, the sixth in a series of crackdowns on Arabs illegally working here. Some 90 illegal Arab workers were rounded up yesterday in a raid conducted by large forces of police, border police, and civil guard volunteers. The workers were found in the areas of Shoham, Maccabim, Reut and Lapid, and criminal files were opened against seven employers. In June, 76 files were opened against employers who hired Arab workers illegally and against 35 people who assisted them. Aharonishky, who participated in the operation, said yesterday's raid gives notice to potential offenders that the Central District will not allow the employment of Arabs without permits. A new law empowers the courts to imprison for up to two years employers hiring Arabs

illegally, but the courts usually hand out hefty fines. Aharonishky said he holds employers and those allowing Arabs to sleep over in Israeli towns fully responsible. "Continuing operations of this kind will make employers think twice before hiring Arabs illegally," said Aharonishky. "Cooperation among different authorities, including regional councils and the courts, will help us stamp out this phenomenon." However, he added, the problem, which constitutes a danger to security, cannot be wiped out completely, and police need additional resources, including personnel, to deal with it.

Man sentenced for murder of underworld figure

RAINE MARCUS

REUVEN Graziani, 37, was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment by Tel Aviv District Court for the murder of underworld figure Amnon Bahashian. Bahashian was gunned down two years ago as he sat outside his Tel Aviv restaurant. Graziani's sunglasses and items of clothing bearing his fingerprints were found nearby. He had been expelled from the US, where he had served a prison sentence, only a few weeks prior to the murder. Judges Devora Bertiner, Ze'ev Hammer, and Sara Sirotta said that Graziani's refusal to participate in a line-up only strengthened their decision to convict him. He also refused to allow police to fingerprint him, but admitted that the sunglasses found near the scene belonged to him. Police believed he murdered Bahashian to avenge the attempted murder of his brother, who was supposed to testify against Bahashian, who then fled here from the US. Bahashian's nephew is currently serving a prison sentence there for the offense. Graziani said he intends to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Magen is deputy finance minister

MK David Magen (Gesher) was yesterday appointed deputy finance minister. Finance Minister Dan Meridor announced the appointment in the Knesset plenum noting it has been approved by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. A discussion on the appointment will be held next week at the request of 36 MKs, but under the Basic Law: The Government, the appointment does not need the approval of the Knesset. Lior Collins

Petition against Leah Rabin benefits thrown out

THE High Court of Justice yesterday threw out a petition against the office, car and secretary given Leah Rabin after her husband was assassinated. The petitioner, Ya'acov Elias, had charged that Rabin was using her government funding to incite against the right wing, and that her benefits should therefore be canceled. Evelyn Gordon

NII expects to collect NIS 13b. this year

JUDY SIEGEL

THE National Insurance Institute expects to collect NIS 13 billion in health taxes this year, based on the amount already taken in during the first five months of this year. NII Director-General Yossi Tamir said this week that in 1995, the NII took in NIS 700 million more in health taxes than was collected as membership fees by the various health funds before the National Health Insurance Law passed 18 months ago. Tamir was reacting to comments made last week by the Maccabi

health fund director-general Shabtai Shavit that using the NII as a conduit for health taxes works to the health funds' detriment. Tamir did not mention an expected shortfall of NIS 1.5 billion between health costs and income in 1996. Direct collection as health taxes, based on income, saved NIS 100 million in administrative costs; the health funds previously had many hundreds of clerks to do this work, while the need for increased NII staff to do this job has been much smaller, Tamir said.

Immigrant couple wins NIS12 million in Lotto

A NEW immigrant couple from the CIS were the winners of last Tuesday's NIS 12 million Lotto prize, it was revealed yesterday, after a week of speculation. The couple, in their 40s and from the North, came here four years ago. The husband is a factory worker and his wife is an unemployed engineer. They have one daughter, who is a high school student. "We are a new immigrant success story," the wife said. "We worked hard and saved every penny for an apartment, and then took a huge mortgage. Now we can pay off the mortgage." She said she had no idea what to do with the rest of the money, since "it still seems like a big dream." A large portion of the money, she said, will certainly go into savings. Her husband, who was earning NIS 4,000 a month, said he would like to open his own business and employ other new immigrants. (Tm)

Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod donate ambulance to Metulla

DAVID RUDGE

A FULLY equipped ambulance costing over NIS200,000 was donated to residents of the Galilee panhandle yesterday by the Jewish Agency and Keren Hayesod, as a result of the Katyusha attacks on the region. The ambulance, which will serve all residents of the region, was presented by Jewish Agency chairman Avraham

Burg and Keren Hayesod world chairman Shlomo Hillel to Metulla Local Council head Yossi Goldberg in a ceremony at the agency's headquarters in Jerusalem. It is part of the aid package promised by Burg to residents

of the North when a high-ranking delegation of Jewish Agency representatives visited the region during Operation Grapes of Wrath. The money for the ambulance, which meets Magen David Adom standards, was raised from donations from the Jewish community in Denmark through the auspices of Keren Hayesod.

The strange tale of Netanyahu's au pair

ESTHER HECHT

AU pairs and their employers often part with bitterness. But when it's the au pair of the prime minister's children, she also comes away with a very salable story. So it was hardly surprising that after Tanya Shaw, 21, found herself summarily dismissed on Sunday afternoon, she turned to Ma'ariv for "help." That newspaper said it found her sitting on the sidewalk outside the Netanyahu home in Jerusalem, surrounded by her belongings and crying, and eager to tell her story. The next morning her father, Philip Shaw, of Efrat, phoned The Jerusalem Post offering more details than had appeared on Ma'ariv's front page. He was with his daughter at a Jerusalem hotel, where her new benefactors were putting her up. The family moved from Johannesburg to Tel Aviv last August, then moved to Efrat. About six months ago, while Tanya was still attending an ulpan, she applied for an au pair job through a Tel Aviv-based firm that matched her up with the Netanyahus. After a thorough security check, "they called Tanya and said: 'Come immediately.' Then they said she should come three days later; then they told her to sign a contract and start working immediately," he said. "She didn't have a chance to have the contract perused."



Tanya Shaw: Summarily dismissed by the Netanyahu family on Sunday. (Isaac Hanes)

Her duties included not only looking after the two Netanyahu children, Yair and Avner, but also cooking for the family and also cleaning, her father said. Her cleaning day started when the children woke up, about 6:30. "We would call [on her private line] at 11:30 p.m. or midnight. Often, she was still working after midnight." According to the contract, she was to have been paid on the ninth of each month, but "she was always paid later - and in part, not in full," he said. According to Shaw, relations between his daughter and Sara Netanyahu were never good. "There were screaming matches," he said. Four months ago, the au pair agency called the parents in for a meeting, saying relations between Netanyahu and his daughter were very bad, he said. A woman at the agency, who would identify herself only as

Hilma, described Tanya as having "a high temper and a big mouth, and her parents acknowledge it," but added that she is a "good girl" and "knows how to apologize." What happened on Tanya's last day of work with the Netanyahus is unclear. Ma'ariv quotes her as saying she was out with Avner, when a guard told her Netanyahu wanted to see her immediately. According to her, Netanyahu said, "You forgot the soup on the stove and it's burned." After a heated exchange, in which Shaw said she was giving two weeks' notice, and then five days' notice, Netanyahu ordered a guard to throw her out of the house, Ma'ariv reported. Three hours later, she was allowed back in to gather her belongings. The Prime Minister's Office refused to say anything beyond the statement it made to Ma'ariv. "The au pair's recent behavior in the Netanyahu home showed indications of acute instability. In light of this, security recommended she be removed from the prime minister's home. "The Netanyahu family intended to continue employing her till the end of the [one-year] contract, but an outburst bordering on violence led to a fire in the family kitchen yesterday, and led to her dismissal. The Netanyahu family regrets the au pair's severe condition and her imagined and false claims, and will do everything possible to help in her rehabilitation." Meanwhile, the au pair agency said it is interviewing a replacement.

Man held on suspicion of killing baby daughter

KIRYAT Shmona police are investigating suspicions that a local man killed his two-month-old daughter. The man arrived in the emergency room yesterday morning with his daughter's body, claiming that she slipped out of his hands in the bathroom and died. The examining doctor saw suspicious signs on the baby's body and called the police, who decided to send the body for an autopsy. The man was held for questioning. The mother, who was summoned to the hospital, said she had been out on errands when the incident occurred. The couple, who are not married, have a two-year-old daughter and the woman has another child from a previous marriage. Social workers are considering taking the children from the home pending the results of the investigation. Itm

Court rejects petition against UTJ coalition deal

THE High Court of Justice has rejected a petition against the coalition agreement with United Torah Judaism. The petition, by Ha'arezt reporter Ben-Zion Sitim, argued Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's promise to UTJ to hold the Housing Ministry for his entire term of office was illegal, because he relinquished the right granted him by law to move ministers and ministries around. However, the court said the issue was irrelevant unless and until Netanyahu was actually being constrained by the pact to do or not do something specific. Evelyn Gordon

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Stunning win for Mongolian democracy

ULAN BATOR (AP) — Stunned by its own success in landmark parliamentary elections that toppled former communists, Mongolia's democratic opposition immediately set its sights yesterday on speeding up political and economic reforms.

"We have a very, very big task," said Gonchigdorj, leader of the democratic coalition, who like many Mongolians uses only one name. The victorious opposition, which has never held power, now must not only form a government but figure out how to run one.

In Sunday's polling, the two-party democratic alliance took at least 48 of the 76 parliamentary seats, trouncing the formerly communist People's Revolutionary Party, which had ruled for nearly 75 years.

The ex-communists dropped from their current 70 seats to 23, according to preliminary official returns. Five seats were still undecided.

The government said the pre-

liminary tally would not be made official until after it investigates any allegations of unfairness and formally presents the results to the president, which must be done within 15 days.

In a weedy square outside the coalition headquarters, a festive atmosphere prevailed as word of the results spread. Crowds of supporters cheered when a candidate left or arrived. An enterprising vendor moved in and sold bottles of cherry soda.

Formation of the new government might not happen for another month. During the next week, activity will grind to a halt for the national "nadaam" festival, which features traditional tests of skill like horse-racing, archery and Mongolian wrestling.

At the headquarters of the ex-communists, officials sequestered themselves in closed-door meetings and rebuffed requests for comment. At one point, reporters standing outside the door of a room where a meeting was under-

way could hear voices raised in apparent agitation.

State radio reported the election results tersely, reading off the list of winning candidates without commentary.

Various government and non-government observers, speaking on condition of anonymity, discounted the possibility that the former communists would refuse to hand over power.

Mongolia's transition away from communism has been remarkable for its peacefulness, and few thought the People's Revolutionary Party would jeopardize foreign aid and investment by any repressive actions.

Galthuu, an official with the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said opposition pledges to accelerate the privatization of state-run enterprises and reform the banking system could help attract badly needed outside investment.

"I think these (election) results will be very, very positive."



Over 1,000 youths take the Chinese Communist Party oath during an induction ceremony at Tiananmen Square yesterday. The mass induction coincides with the 75th anniversary of the party, which is trying to recapture the vigor of its youth by recruiting members.

Young lawyer is new Dominican president

SANTO DOMINGO (Reuters) — Centrist Leonel Fernandez, a 42-year-old lawyer, won the presidency of the Dominican Republic by a 2.5 percent margin yesterday, succeeding Joaquin Balaguer who is more than twice his age.

The Central Election Board said with more than 99 percent of the votes counted from Sunday's runoff vote, Fernandez of the Dominican Liberation Party (PLD), had defeated Jose

Francisco Pena Gomez of the centre-left Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), by 51.25 percent to 48.75 percent.

Before issuing the results bulletin, the election board said on television a small number of ballots had not been included in the total because they had not been counted or were declared null, but they would not affect the outcome.

Fernandez will be inaugurated

as president on Aug. 16, taking over from Balaguer who has served seven non-consecutive terms as president.

The 42-year-old lawyer's appointment will end six decades of strongman rule. Before Balaguer, dictator Rafael Trujillo ruled the Caribbean nation from 1930 until his 1961 assassination.

Thousands celebrated outside PLD headquarters, wearing hats, shirts and badges of purple, the colour of the PLD. Music blasted as they danced, waved banners and sang to celebrate the party's victory. One man shouted: "Trujillo is dead!"

"I believe the triumph of the PLD with the National Patriotic Front is a triumph of the Dominican people and of democracy in general," said Juan Ramon Ortiz, 43, who embraced passers-by as he swayed at the edge of the crowd.

The National Patriotic Front is an alliance of the PLD and Balaguer's Social Christian Reform Party (PRSC), the conservative nationalist party that was the PLD's biggest enemy.

Observers said Fernandez's link with the ruling party helped push him to the presidency.

Familiar faces head Vietnamese Politburo

HANOI (AP) — The ruling Communist Party named a new Politburo yesterday with the same top leaders but more members from the security forces.

General Secretary Do Muoi, President Le Duc Anh and Premier Vo Van Kiet were all reappointed, although the new Politburo is slightly younger than the last one.

But the presence of six members from the military and police, up from the previous four, gave it a conservative cast. Moreover, three out of five members of the Politburo Standing Committee, a newly created sub-group, are from the security contingent.

"We can only have economic development with social and political stability," said Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, a Politburo member, when asked about military and police members.

"If we want to have stability, we need to ensure our security," he said at a news conference.

The 19-member Politburo and 170-member Central Committee were announced at the end of a four-day national party congress. The gathering, the first in five years, set ambitious goals including annual economic growth of 9-

10 percent and eradicating hunger by the year 2000.

But it also stressed the need to maintain strong party and state control over the economy and society, and to guard against foreign ideas that might undermine the party's power.

The continued presence of the party's top three leaders — Muoi, Anh and Kiet, all in their 70s — indicates a continuation of the current policy of widening foreign relations, welcoming but attempting to control foreign investors, and moving slowly and tentatively toward a liberal economy.

Asked about the prospect for political liberalization, Muoi said Vietnam already has a kind of democracy that suits it.

"If anybody wants to attack this (Communist) party, they will be in big trouble," he said. Asked how long the party would remain in power, he said, "Forever."

Party officials, including an outgoing Central Committee member, have said the top three may retire in the second half of next year, but no formal announcement was made. Muoi, who is 79 and walks a bit shakily, told reporters he will leave when the party asks him

to.

The presence of the three septuagenarians was balanced by the addition of two officials in their late 40s. The Politburo also includes a woman for the first time.

"We think of it as a family, where we include both the old and the young," said Nong Duc Manh, 55, a Politburo member and chairman of the National Assembly.

"To play its role well, the party has to reform and adjust itself," Muoi said in a closing speech to the gathering, standing in front of huge portraits of Marx and Lenin. He urged all party members to be honest and thrifty.

Widespread corruption emerged as a secondary theme during the congress, with many delegates identifying it as a serious problem for the party's image. However, no plan of action was suggested.

Muoi's predecessor as party chief, Nguyen Van Linh, shook up many delegates when he gave a speech suggesting the party is corrupted at the very top.

"If your house has problems with the roof and you only mend the wall, the problems will never be solved," Linh said.

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New leak at Chernobyl

KIEV (Reuters) — A small amount of radiation was released in one of two working reactors at the Chernobyl power station, site of the world's worst nuclear disaster, plant staff and Ukraine's nuclear authority said yesterday.

Galina Nossch, an engineer at the station 140 km north of Kiev, said the leak occurred in a corridor in the main room of Chernobyl's reactor no. 1.

She said the incident rated zero on the 0-7 international scale of "nuclear events" and posed no threat to staff or the environment. It was the latest in a long series of incidents at the plant, due to close by the end of the century.

"It's still not clear why this happened," Nossch said by telephone. "Why does there have to be such a fuss about every little trivial occurrence? This can happen at any station. But we do understand that our station is viewed as a special one."

Tetyana Yagish, a spokeswoman for Ukraine's nuclear authority, said the leak was at levels five times higher than normal in a corridor used by staff.

"They discovered it on Friday and completed the clean-up Saturday," she said.

Yagish said the leak occurred as staff were checking inside the reactor with television cameras.

Ireland takes over EU presidency

DUBLIN (Reuters) — EU Commission President Jacques Santer arrived in Dublin yesterday for the bandover of the European Union presidency and some of the bloc's biggest headaches to one its smallest states.

An EU war on drugs, crime and unemployment is expected to be the main focus of Ireland's stewardship of the EU over the next six months, Irish officials said.

Santer and the entire 20-person EU Commission came to Dublin for a state dinner hosted by Prime Minister John Bruton and talks with officials.

They arrived amid public outrage over the killing last week of crime journalist Veronica Guerin whose reporting uncovered drug barons and gangland godfathers operating in Ireland.

The Irish government wants member states to impose mandatory maximum sentences on convicted drug traffickers to sbow the crime overlords that they are united in the fight against a sub-culture which poisons youth and perverts social values.

Santer, in an interview taped

Australia's Northern Territory becomes first to okay euthanasia

DARWIN, Australia (Reuters) — The world's first law allowing voluntary euthanasia came into force in Australia yesterday but dying patients may be forced to wait months before they can end their lives using lethal injections or pills.

Australian authorities have warned doctors they could face murder charges for helping patients die if legal and political challenges to the new law, which are unlikely to be resolved before the end of the year, are successful.

A coalition against euthanasia consisting of doctors, church and aboriginal leaders yesterday began a Supreme Court challenge in Darwin to the new law, arguing it exceeded the territory's powers and breached the constitution.

The coalition's lawyer David Jackson told the court the territory law contravened Australians' right to life.

"Underlying the law lies a fundamental right, principle, value or doctrine that there is sanctity of life or that there is an inalienable right to life," Jackson said.

Euthanasia opponents have warned they will appeal to Australia's highest court if necessary, in which case a final legal

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Photographs and commentary by Neil Folberg

For the last three years Neil Folberg, a former student of Ansel Adams, has travelled the world, visiting Jewish communities past and present and photographing both grand-scale and modest synagogues, in places ranging from India to the Czech Republic, to Israel, the American South and the Caribbean. An essay by Yom Tov Assis focuses on the social and cultural history of the Jews, and Neil Folberg's first-person account of his photographs accompanies each of the chapters, which are divided into geographic regions. A superb full color album, it provides a vibrant window onto the Jewish cultural past.

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'Plain English' applaud Clinton

LONDON (AP) — Step forward President Clinton: exponent of the art of plain speaking.

Britain's Plain English Campaign said yesterday it has awarded the US president a special prize for his "plain and effective" use of the language, particularly in speeches in Britain.

"We were inundated with calls from supporters all over Britain after President Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland" late last year, campaign director Chrissie Maher said yesterday.

"His plain and effective style of speaking moved people."

Maher said after monitoring the president's speeches this year, the campaign concluded that "he speaks very well, very plainly and in the best tradition of American presidents."

"He received so many nominations that we created a new (award) category: Exceptional Plain English Communicator. We hope that he will accept this

104-150



Actor Alexei Soskov operates puppets of Alexander Lebed (center) and Russian President Boris Yeltsin (right). Both puppets are dressed as railway workers. Security Chief Lebed's new star status in Russian politics has been confirmed by the popular satirical 'Kukly' (puppets) television program which has promoted him from a supporting role into a leading actor.

Officials dismiss Yeltsin health concerns

News agencies MOSCOW
SPEAKING to voters for the first time in a week, Boris Yeltsin urged his nation yesterday to choose freedom in a crucial presidential runoff two days away — as officials sought to dispel concerns about the president's health.
"We have one Russia, one future, one path to normal life," a tired but firm-speaking Yeltsin said in a televised appeal. "Vote for the new Russia! Only together we shall win!"
The speech came on the last day campaigning is allowed before tomorrow's vote pitting Yeltsin against Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov.
"You will vote not only for Yeltsin or Zyuganov," the president said. "You will vote for yourself, your family, the future of your children."
Yeltsin's campaign has been somewhat marred by a revival of old worries about his health and fitness for a second term.
The 65-year-old Yeltsin, who has a history of heart trouble, canceled a string of recent appearances and trips, including a Kremlin meeting yesterday with the presidents of Ukraine and Moldova.
In Washington the White House said yesterday it had no indications from Russian officials that Russian President Boris Yeltsin was suffering from anything more serious than a sore throat.
White House spokesman Mike McCurry said the US government had contacts with Russian officials through the US embassy in

Moscow, and "privately they're telling us the same thing they're saying publicly... (that Yeltsin has) laryngitis, is resting, looking forward to getting back to work soon."
McCurry noted this was the same thing that Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had told President Bill Clinton on Saturday in Lyon, France, where they were attending an economic summit.
McCurry said he was not aware of any "direct communication" between US officials and Yeltsin in recent days.
A Ukrainian Embassy spokesman said the Russian side canceled the meeting Sunday. A Yeltsin spokesman, Pyotr Tarasov, said it was delayed "by mutual agreement."
Yeltsin kept up a busy campaign schedule before the first election round June 16. He jetted around the country, waded into crowds, visited mines and factories, danced at rock concerts.
But a week ago, Yeltsin abruptly canceled a short campaign journey, then a planned trip to the G-7 summit in France, where he sent Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The president did not attend a meeting with farmers last Friday and missed a festival in Moscow on Sunday.
He did tape his appeal yesterday, according to officials, and held meetings at his country residence with Chernomyrdin and the national security adviser, Alexander

Lebed. Russian TV reports showed a slightly pale Yeltsin discussing elections with the premier.
"Elections are the main thing now," Yeltsin said. "The decisive moment is coming for all of us."
Chernomyrdin, who would take over should the president be incapacitated, said Yeltsin was recovering from a cold. Aides have insisted the president merely lost his voice giving too many interviews.
Asked at a news conference if Yeltsin suffered another bout of the heart ailment that landed him in hospital twice last year, Chernomyrdin laughed: "When we met he shook my hand so strongly all doubts disappeared."
Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov, a powerful Yeltsin ally, said the president was "in working condition and holding meetings of his election staff."
Yeltsin's lack of visible activity following a whirlwind campaign has sent tremors through Russia's fragile stock market, but its concrete impact on his re-election chances remained unclear.
Russia's major networks and newspapers, solidly pro-Yeltsin, have largely ignored or dismissed new speculation about his health, and many voters across the country are likely unaware of it altogether.
Still, campaign manager Sergei Filatov said advisers "must have made a mistake by not telling the president to appear in public and at least wave his hand to the people to exclude rumors about his illness."

Did Karadzic really turn over powers to his deputy?

SARAJEVO (AP) — The Bosnian Serb's Radovan Karadzic, indicted for war crimes, has bowed to international pressure to step aside.
Or has he?
Karadzic sent a letter to international mediators on Sunday declaring that was quitting his office as Bosnian Serb president and handing his powers to a deputy.
Though international officials insisted Karadzic was out Sunday, the hard-line deputy who assumed his post, Biljana Plavsic, said Karadzic remained president — just without his powers.
Hasan Muratovic, prime minister of Bosnia's Moslem-led government, Karadzic's enemy in the 3 1/2-year war, called the move a ruse. "He has not been replaced," Muratovic said.
A new statement from the Bosnian Serbs yesterday reiterated that Karadzic had "handed over his powers" to Plavsic, but stopped short of saying unequivocally that Karadzic was no longer the Bosnian Serb president.
In his statement, Karadzic said he was "further than what had been said in Karadzic's letter on Sunday."
Officials did not immediately offer reaction to the new statement, but anger had erupted in the office of Carl Bildt, the top international official for Bosnia's peace accord, in response to

Plavsic's comments that Karadzic was still president.
"What we have is not what we want; there must be action," said Bildt's deputy Michael Steiner.
A senior official in Bildt's office, insisting on anonymity, said the Bosnian Serb leadership must now immediately complete Karadzic's removal from power or Bildt would call for either sanctions against all Serbs or military action to remove Karadzic.
The NATO peace force commander, US Adm. Leighton Smith, promised in a statement that his troops "will do everything" to help Bildt's office to remove Karadzic.
NATO spokesman Col. Charles-Henri de Noirmont underlined that NATO-led troops would only arrest indicted war criminals they encounter in the course of regular duties, not hunt for them.
"The official from Bildt's office said, however, that NATO would be prepared to put a tighter seal on Pale, via increased ground patrols and remote surveillance, and thus prevent Karadzic from moving around until Bosnia's Sept. 14 elections."
There likely would not be any such action until after tomorrow when the presidential runoff is held in Russia — a traditional supporter of the Serbs. Russia requested the delay at last week's

meeting of the world's seven richest nations, where Moscow supported a call for new sanctions if Karadzic did not quit.
Karadzic is regarded as a major impediment to Sept. 14 elections that foreign officials see as a key step in their effort to stitch Bosnia together.
It was clear that the international community has hard work ahead to finally cut the flamboyant leader off from his base of support and force him to answer war crimes charges before a UN tribunal.
Bildt said Sunday that based on Karadzic's letter, the Bosnian Serb leader "cannot exercise any public functions or public powers as president of Republika Srpska," the Serbs' self-proclaimed state.
Bildt said there were no conditions attached and that it is now illegal for any Bosnian Serb official to take orders from Karadzic.
He acknowledged that Karadzic would still exert influence, but said it was a "losing battle."
Karadzic is prohibited from holding office by the 1995 Dayton accord, and the pressure on him to quit has grown steadily for weeks. Bildt had threatened to seek reimposed economic sanctions against Bosnian Serbs and Serbia if Karadzic did not step down.

Hong Kong democrats barred from China

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong's final year as a British colony got off to a bitter start yesterday when China ejected eight Hong Kong Chinese politicians from Beijing and confiscated their travel documents.
The group flew to Beijing to petition China not to scrap their legislature after London returns the territory in 1997.
The eight, led by Democratic Party legislator Andrew Cheng, said Chinese security men scanned a three-page blacklist of Hong Kong undesirables after they landed in Beijing on a Dragonair flight from the colony yesterday.
The politicians carried a petition signed by 60,000 Hong Kong people asking China to jettison its plan to appoint a provisional legislature to replace the elected Legislative Council when Beijing takes back Hong Kong next July 1.
Chinese security personnel entered the plane on the tarmac at Beijing airport and the activists were not allowed off.
Legislator Tsang Kin-shing said he was pained at being barred from a land that he said he regarded as home and by the confiscation of the "return home" permits that allow Hong Kong Chinese routinely to enter mainland China.
"We are in a state of shock that there really is a blacklist — three pages long — with the names mostly of democrats... It is a lie when they say there is no blacklist," Tsang said.
One of China's top Hong Kong officials, Zhang Junsheng, said the "troublemakers" had been warned

they would not be let in.
"They forced their way to make a spectacle. This will not be tolerated," Zhang told reporters. "They are deliberately provocative," he said.
Democratic Party leader Martin Lee, who did not attempt the journey, criticized China's reaction.
"Chinese leaders are not interested to hear from Hong Kong people anything other than what they want to hear," Lee said.
"What the Chinese authorities did today destroys the spirit of the 'one country, two systems' idea and has shattered our dream of a democratic Hong Kong after the handover," Cheng said.
The foiled activists said some of the security men stood at the door of the plane bearing rifles while checks took place.
Friends and relatives welcomed home the abortive mission at Hong Kong airport with flowers and tears.
Beijing has promised Hong Kong great autonomy after 1997 and pledged that the capitalist outpost of 6.2 million people can coexist with socialist China. But many in Hong Kong are sceptical and fear repressive rule.
As the one-year countdown began, politicians sent out mixed signals of faith and gloom. Chinese leaders issued assurances that virtually nothing would change except the flag.
Hundreds of pro-democracy protesters and demonstrators sympathetic towards Beijing held rival rallies without clashes over the weekend to mark the 365-day countdown.

British politicians set election strategy

LONDON (Reuters) — The tempo of British politics suddenly quickened yesterday as the ruling Conservative party settled on a strategy for the general election and its Labor foes put the finishing touches to their basic policy prospects.
As a result, the main battle lines are now drawn for what promises to be a long, drawn-out election campaign.
Although Prime Minister John Major's grip on power is fragile, with an overall minority in parliament of just one, he told a political session of his cabinet that he intended to delay the election until close to the legal deadline of May 22.
The prime minister said it was still his firm intention to go the distance "till next May," a Conservative official said.
Major wants to put off the poll as long as possible in the hope that a growing economy will help to win back voters who deserted the Conservatives because of their divisions over Europe, reputation for sleaze and broken promises on tax.
Ministers were in what the official called a "very, very good upbeat mood" yesterday because of growing dissent in Labor ranks, clear evidence of a recovery in living standards and an uptick in recent opinion polls.
The two most recent national opinion polls showed that the Conservatives, in power since 1979, had narrowed Labor's lead to around 20 percent from 25-30 earlier this year.
"There's still plenty of time," the party aide said.
The main business of the political cabinet was to endorse a definitive strategy for countering Labor, which has claimed the centre ground of British politics since Blair became leader two years ago and promptly ditched its old-style socialist policies.
Conservative strategists admitted they had failed so far to hurt Labor because they had sent mixed-up messages.
"If the Labor party is this far ahead in the polls, this is palpably the case," one said.

Paris mayor in new scandal

PARIS (AP) — France's latest political scandal heated yesterday when the mayor of Paris angrily said he'll file a breach of privacy complaint for leaks in a housing probe that targeted him.
The Paris prosecutor's office suddenly closed the case against Mayor Jean Tiberi over the weekend.
A close ally of President Jacques Chirac, Tiberi was being investigated for using public funds to renovate a city-owned apartment for his son.
But the affair — the latest in a series of housing scandals to dog top conservatives — continues to be the talk of the town. Opponents of the conservative ruling party are crying coverup, saying the real scandal is that the case was closed.
It was set aside a day after the Paris daily *Le Monde* revealed that anti-fraud police had been ordered not to aid the judge handling the inquiry when he went to search Tiberi's apartment.
Opposition Socialists and others have accused French Justice Minister Jacques Toubon of personally influencing the prosecutor to close the case. Toubon denies it and said he had "no part" in the

decision.
"Is it Necessary to Close Toubon?" the leftist daily *Liberation* headlined yesterday over a large photo of the justice minister.
Emboldened by the prosecutor's decision to drop the probe, Tiberi said he would file a general breach of privacy complaint with the Paris tribunal over leaks to the press of details of the case.
"I'm a citizen, too, and I want them to respect me, my honor and my rights," he told a news conference, denouncing the affair as "a political slander operation."
"These accusations exist only in the minds of my detractors," said, lashing out at what he called "the multiplication of lies, allegations and accusations without proof."
But Lionel Jospin, a Socialist Party leader who lost to Chirac in last year's elections, cried scandal.
Jospin called the closing of the case "a serious threat to the right, one that the citizens will judge in 1998" in legislative elections.

Four women killed by car chased by police

ALORTON, Illinois (AP) — A speeding car being chased by police for a traffic violation slammed into two other vehicles in a residential area and killed four women driving home from church.
Both men in the fleeing car also died. The pursuing officer acted in accordance with his department rules, said Curtis McCall, police chief in nearby Centreville.
Relatives of the victims, however, were sharply critical.
"The police were negligent," Lavon Peals said. "My mother was killed over a damn traffic stop."
McCall said Sgt. Robert Stadler stopped a car in Centreville after clocking it at 90 kph in a 55 kph zone. The driver stopped, but then sped off and Stadler pursued.
About 2 km away in Alorton,

the speeding car slammed into two cars, one of them driven by Peals' mother, Clementine Peals, 66.
Mrs. Peals was killed, as were Bessie L. Byrum, 81; Dolores Martin, 72; and Dorothy Hopkins, 41, all of East St. Louis.
Stadler, 53, has been on the force for 28 years. "Believe me," said McCall, "he feels terrible about this."

FLAMES OF REVOLT

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Bryan waves bye to street cred

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Immune systems

PLAIN speaking is all too often a rare commodity among lawyers, but State Attorney Edna Arbel showed on Sunday she can be refreshingly blunt when need be. In her first meeting with reporters since taking office six months ago, she said the state should again try to lift Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi's Knesset immunity.

The decision to indict Pinhasi was taken by then-attorney-general Yosef Harish in 1993 for tax fraud and violations of the Party Funding Law. Pinhasi is suspected of illegally hiring yeshiva students - who are banned from working because they receive draft deferments - during Shas's 1988 election campaign.

As Harish said at the time, parliamentary immunity exists to enable MKs to speak and vote without fear or hindrance, and to facilitate

the smooth operation of the democratic process. It does not exist, for example, to hide records from the army or the tax authorities. But, in July 1993, in a shocking display of political cynicism, the Knesset plenum voted 54-50 not to remove Pinhasi's immunity.

Arbel is to be praised for acting on the Movement for Quality Government's request to reopen the Pinhasi case, although the final decision as to whether to request the lifting of Pinhasi's immunity lies with Attorney-General Michael Ben Ya'ir.

Although Pinhasi cannot be branded a criminal - given that he has successfully avoided standing trial, he has no convictions against him - the fact that he has an indictment pending should have been enough to disqualify him from sensitive, parliamentary posts.

Among other things, this committee handles requests from the attorney-general for the removal of Knesset members' parliamentary immunity. While there can be no doubt that Pinhasi would suspend himself from chairing any meeting concerning his case, there is still the fear that coalition considerations (the Knesset House Committee is a vital tool in ensuring the smooth running of government-proposed legislation) would once again override the moral aspect of the case.

Reform protest

THE Reform movement's unease with the power of the religious parties in the new government is understandable. But on a visit to Israel this week, Rabbi Sheldon Zimmerman, president of the Reform movement's Hebrew Union College, went beyond the bounds within which such displeasure is usually expressed.

This refusal to sign an innocuous message is surprising because it represents a break with the long-standing tradition that the American Jewish community supports the Israeli government in public, whatever their disagreements in private. More galling is that fact that Zimmerman is seemingly trying to dictate what laws Israel's democratically elected Knesset may pass.

government will erode the rights granted the non-Orthodox by the High Court of Justice. In fact, the High Court never actually recognized non-Orthodox conversions. In a ruling last summer, the court said the state's justification for not recognizing these conversions was invalid, but deliberately stopped short of declaring the conversions valid.

Diapora Jews have every right to lobby both the Israeli people and the Israeli government. However, trying to bully Israel's legislature is hardly a way to win sympathy for their cause. If American Jews truly want to influence the treatment of the Reform and Conservative movements here, there is ultimately only one solution: Large-scale immigration.



One goal, two heads

EVERY Knesset has its odd couples who get together to work for a political goal. In the 12th Knesset it was Yossi Sarid (Citizens Rights Movement) and Benny Begin (Likud).

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Interest in this particular coalition being formed. The strengthening of the small parties isn't just a function of Binyamin Netanyahu's excessive haste in forming his government (and possibly his wish to settle accounts with the Likud "princes" and the old party apparatus).

The latest Knesset 'odd couple': Landau & Beilin

tion) has always been to move Israel toward a two-party system, giving it more stable and coherent governments and reducing the blackmailing power of the small parties. THE NEW system has achieved the exact opposite. Ever since the political alignments around Mapai and the Herut Movement began to crystallize in the period before the elections to the Sixth Knesset in 1965 (when the Alignment and Gahal, forerunners of the Labor and Likud parties were established), there has never been a Knesset in which the two large parties had so few seats between them - 66 seats in the 14th Knesset, compared to 95 in the 10th. Also, there has never been a coalition in Israel in which the smaller parties got so much, even though most of them had a vested

interest in this particular coalition being formed. The strengthening of the small parties isn't just a function of Binyamin Netanyahu's excessive haste in forming his government (and possibly his wish to settle accounts with the Likud "princes" and the old party apparatus).

What Landau and Beilin aspire to is a system in which the leader of the largest party gets called upon by the president to form a new government after elections. While it is too early to tell whether they have any chance of achieving their common goal, at least three factors will be working against them: Binyamin Netanyahu will fight them to the bitter end, and the future contenders for the Labor Party leadership might side with him. Most of the small parties are well content with the new system, which has operated to their benefit. The new chairman of the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, which will be in charge of preparing the proposed bill for preliminary reading in the Knesset plenary is the National Religious Party's Shaul Yahalom - and he is unlikely to pursue the task with any enthusiasm.

If you don't like the rules...

IMAGINE if after the Olympics the big countries were to declare a crisis because in their opinion the small countries had won too many medals. Imagine a demand to change the rules in order to guarantee that the big countries would be the big winners.

MARK L. LEVINSON

But the big parties want more: They want those seats for themselves. Accordingly, Uzi Landau and Yossi Beilin have floated the idea of handing the Prime Minister's Office to whatever party wins the most votes. On June 26 The Jerusalem Post's reporter airily called this "basically the old system," but it is decisively different. Under the old system, the president gave the job of forming a government to the party most likely to succeed.

had been cast under the Landau-Beilin system. Shimon Peres would be our leader today. The right wing was the larger bloc, but the largest party was Labor. Not that the votes would have come in the same under Landau-Beilin. As the two MKs know, if the premiership were decided exclusively by the race between the big parties, we would tend to vote for one of those parties. A strong Meretz showing, after all, would profit the leftists little under a Likud prime minister. And nothing would unite the right wing under the Likud like the threat of another Shimon Peres as premier. Far from being a return to the old system, what's being proposed is essentially a new two-party system, with other parties finding support only from those who don't care who the prime minister is, or at times when the job is not seriously contested. The old system was like an Olympic parade. Large and small delegations marched with equal pride, each under its own flag. Under Landau-Beilin, in contrast, the whole Knesset campaign would amount to a fight to see which of two parties shoves the other to the margins, just as the first personal campaign for prime minister was a single, ugly, sweaty bout of sumo wrestling. A one-on-one.

What amateur sport wouldn't tolerate professional politics apparently can

"The President has always chosen the largest party," Labor would remind us in its old campaign ads, and truthfully. "But that's not the point; it's the largest bloc that counts, not the largest party," Meretz would say, also truthfully. At prime-minister level, a vote for Meretz was as good as a vote for Labor, and a vote for Mofedet was as good as a vote for Mofedet.

What amateur sport wouldn't tolerate professional politics apparently can

LANDAU and Beilin want to change that. If, for example, this year's votes

The writer is a Herzliya-based freelancer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE COVENANT

Sir, - "Klotzkashe" is the Yiddish for a question so silly that it's hard to find a sensible answer. Most of Yisrael Medad's klotzkashehs (Letters, June 21) reflect the Israeli attitude and have no relevance to the simple fact that the Palestine National Covenant, adopted in 1964, no longer exists. The depth of inanity, however, is reached in the same issue by Shmuel Katz, who declares that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat "lifted not a finger" to abrogate or amend the covenant, and an answer to him may also serve, partially, for Medad. In 1988 Arafat and the PLO rejected "terrorism in all its forms" and called for peace negotiations with Israel on the basis of Israeli withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967. This declaration, despite its aggressive language, violated the fundamental principles of the covenant, which denied Israel's right to exist in any boundaries and called for its destruction by armed struggle. However, the covenant was not formally abrogated or amended, and even the Rabin-Peres government of 1992 was not satisfied. During the Oslo negotiations, it demanded a clearer statement. In his official letter of September 9, 1993, on behalf of the PLO, Arafat accepted Israel's right to exist in peace and security, renouncing terrorism and violence. Katz's statement that Arafat undertook in 1993 that "the covenant remain in force until a 'committee' decides which clauses are to be

amended" is a simple falsehood. On the contrary, Arafat declared in his letter that all provisions of the covenant inconsistent with it "are now inoperative and no longer valid." The Israeli government, however, was not content until Arafat had assembled the more than 600 members of the Council and pushed through by an overwhelming majority a resolution endorsing its 1993 letter and declaring that the covenant "is now amended" (not, as Katz falsely writes, "would be amended") by canceling all provisions inconsistent with it. Arafat, therefore, lifted much more than a "finger." The fact that at each stage he went further was due, of course, to the insistence of the Israeli government presumably in order to satisfy public opinion. I cannot understand why Yisrael Medad did not understand these elementary facts, but there is some point in his last query. The question is whether all the fuss about the covenant is not superfluous. What exactly was its validity, in practice, before it was amended? Perhaps Professor Yeboosua Porat will tell us: Did any of Arafat's many opponents in the PLO appeal to some kind of PLO High Court (is there one?) against his flagrant violations of the covenant in the last decade? Did any prospective Hamas suicide bomber say: "It's all right for me to do this; it says so in Article so-and-so of the covenant?"

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Sir, - I am writing in support of Dr. Orik Tamir's letter, "Absentee Ballots" (J.P., June 18). Unfortunately, when the Knesset Law Committee worked on election reform and, later when the matter was taken up by the entire parliament, the matter of permitting Israeli citizens abroad to participate in all national elections was never considered. To date, few in the Knesset have much interest or concern for the many yordim outside the geographical boundaries of the Jewish State. If Israel wants to be considered a democracy in the modern world, the new Netanyahu administration ought to emulate the United States, United Kingdom, France and South Africa, to name a few among other Western democracies, by granting its citizens residing abroad their rightful franchise. Having been intimately involved with the American absentee ballot process and personally responsible for legislation ensuring that all who want to vote in absentia will be able to, I suggest that among new statutes regarding election reform in Israel, the government enact provisions for all Israelis abroad to participate in all state elections, by having them request and obtain an absentee ballot by post, E-mail, fax or at their nearest Israeli consulate, at least 60 days before any general election. Completed absentee ballots ought either to be turned in at any Israeli consulate and forwarded via the diplomatic pouch, or accepted directly by the Central Elections Committee, no later than seven days before Election Day, by post or electronic transmittal. The only way Israelis abroad can ever hope to gain their rightful franchise is if they petition their government en masse.

SHOOT DOWN

Sir, - When Gaddafi flouted the UN embargo by flying to the Arab summit in Cairo, the UN had the right and obligation to use this golden opportunity to shoot him down. What is the sense of an embargo if it is not enforced? DR. JACOB ROSIN Netanya.

POSTSCRIPT

SNOWSHOES DESIGNED for use in Arctic temperatures have become standard gear in south Florida for park rangers. The snowshoes are used to keep the rangers' feet from sinking into the silty bottom of the national park between the Florida Keys and Miami. "When people first see us get

out of the boat with snowshoes on, they look at us like we're idiots," said park ranger Kim Korhous. Snowshoes are also used by rangers in nearby Everglades National Park for wading through Florida Bay. David Pharo, a park ranger at Biscayne Bay, said the web-foot-

ed gear prevents damage to delicate seagrass, which acts as a filter for the bay by trapping sediment, and is a nursery for tiny marine life. "You can sink to your waist out there," said Pharo. "With snowshoes, you stay on top and don't damage the grass. It just bends over and comes right back up."

delicia 1520

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Turkish markets cautious over new coalition

ISTANBUL (Reuter) - Turkish financial markets remained cautious yesterday because of the upcoming vote of confidence in the new Islamist-led coalition, but analysts said investors were calm because they did not expect the government to drastically change Turkey's economic policies.

no radical changes in Turkey's present economic policies, which stress privatization, budget-cutting and strengthening economic ties with the West.

Kemet rejects Vishay's purchase offer

GREENVILLE, South Carolina - Kemet Corp. rejected rival electronic components maker Vishay Intertechnology Corp.'s acquisition proposal and adopted an anti-takeover measure to make it less attractive to an unwanted suitor.

discussing the proposal, citing its "strong future prospects as an independent company. The companies compete in the \$15 billion-a-year market for capacitors - components used in computers and electronic devices.

Central bank index indicates slowdown

Integrated indicators index down for 1st time since '93

A SIGNIFICANT sign of an impending economic slowdown emerged yesterday when the Bank of Israel said its index of integrated indicators declined in May by 0.7 percent in comparison with the previous month, the first contraction in more than three years of this broad measurement of the economy's overall vitality.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Organized retail commerce sales also slowed in May, when they grew at an annual pace of 9%, compared to 12-14% growth in the previous two-month period, and 15-18% over last year's second half.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

- Bezeq to help Technion transmit lectures: Expanded cooperation between Bezeq and the Haifa Technion will make possible real-time transmission of lectures by the school's staff over interactive ATM lines combining pictures, sounds and data at high speed and quality.
Purchase tax on imports jumps: The purchase tax on imported goods was raised by 20 percent yesterday. This is the first change since January 1993, when the dollar was worth NIS 2.64. Legally, the tax must be changed with every 20% increase in the value of the dollar against the shekel.



Russian stockbrokers place bets on the outcome of tomorrow's presidential poll at the Russian Stock Exchange in Moscow yesterday. Brokers have devised futures contracts with starting prices based on election candidates' opinion poll ratings.

Government licenses 5 oil drills

THE government has awarded the first five licenses to drill for oil in Israel's deep waters in the Mediterranean.

DAVID HARRIS

estimated that the initial drilling, at a 1500 meter-depth, will cost \$25 million.

IEC insurance committee approves recommendation: The insurance committee of the Israel Electric Corporation has approved the recommendation to appoint London-based Marsh & McLennan as broker for its planned \$1.4 billion coal-fired power plant at Ashkelon. The insurance cover would last five years.

Palestinian growers irked by Flower Board ruling: Palestinian flower growers are contemplating cutting of all ties with Agrexco and Carmel in response to a decision by the Flower Board to separate exports from Israel from those of the territories.

Tribune Co. acquires Renaissance: Media power Tribune Co. will buy Renaissance Communications Corp. and its six television stations in a cash deal valued at \$1.13 billion, the companies announced yesterday.

Tourism grows by 12 percent: The number of visitors in the first quarter of 1996 stood at 855,400, a 12% increase on the same period last year, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported this week.

Following the deal, it would own and operate TV stations in eight of the top 11 US markets, the Chicago-based company said in a statement.

US court approves InterPharm share buyback

AFTER two years of litigation, a New York federal court has preliminarily approved a settlement that will allow Ares-Serono, a Geneva-based pharmaceutical company, to buy back its shares in its Israeli-based bio-tech subsidiary, InterPharm, the company recently announced.

UN oil deal stabilizes Iraqi dinar, commodity prices

BAGHDAD (Reuter) - Iraq's oil deal with the United Nations is bringing stability to the battered local currency and prices of essential commodities for the first time since 1990.

In a briefing for reporters in Jerusalem, Most and Cellcom vice president for engineering Shalom Manova said the ultimate aim is for every Israeli to own a cellular phone.

US court approves InterPharm share buyback

The deal is expected to close early next year following Federal Communications Commission and shareholder approvals, Tribune said. Renaissance shareholders who own 60 percent of the company have agreed to vote for the transaction, Tribune said.

Reading between the lines... you have time for trading action until 11 PM. ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK 84 Civ. 5539 (KTJ/PLE) REBECCA SKYDELL on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, vs. ARES-SERONO S.A., Defendant. SUMMARY NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLASS ACTION AND SETTLEMENT HEARING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 16, 1996.

Cellcom: Lower the customs on phones

CELLCOM will try to persuade the government to lower customs charges on cellular telephones and on "Diburi" equipment required for using a cellular phone in a moving vehicle, according to Oren Most, the consortium's vice president for marketing.

JUDY SIEGEL

months of operations, many more than Bezeq/Motorola's Telephone was able to get in 10 years as a monopoly.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS Table with columns for Currency, Deposit term, and Rate. Includes sub-tables for Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) and Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates.

Key Representative Rates
US dollar NIS 3.2030
Sterling NIS 4.9789
Mark NIS 2.1034

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET
New York market indexes
DJ Industrial
DJ Transport
DJ Comp

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100
Tokyo Nikkei
Hong Kong Hang Seng

Israeli stocks in NY
NYSE / AMEX
Am Tel
Am Sat

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading
Two-sided trading
AFTERNOON
MORNING
Commercial Banks
Industrial
Mortgage Banks & Finance
Financial Institutions
Insurance
Trade & Services
Oil Exploration
PARALLEL LIST
Trade & Services
Property, Building & Agriculture

'Foggy weather' drives stock prices down

STOCKS fell yesterday, after the government's first budget-related debate on Sunday ended without any decisions.
'Foreign investors and local investors are waiting for the atmosphere to clear,' said Dan Kiri, analyst with Bank Otzar Hayahal.

LIBOR RATES

Libor rates
3 months
6 months
12 months

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

US COMMODITIES

US commodities
Cocoa (B)
Coffee (B)

London commodities

London commodities
Cocoa (B)
Coffee (B)

Spot market metals (US)

Spot market metals (US)
Gold
Silver

New York metal futures

New York metal futures
Gold
Silver

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
NEW YORK
LONDON

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES
NEW YORK
LONDON
PARIS
FRANKFURT

Euro markets start off big week with a whimper

LONDON (Reuters) - European markets drifted into the second half of 1996 in a wary mood ahead of three major events later this week - any one of which could unsettle them.
Europe's leading bourses close mixed yesterday - London and Frankfurt rose 0.39 and 0.1 percent respectively, while Paris shed 0.23%.

Dow up sharply

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stock prices soared on the first day of the third quarter yesterday as investors were confident that the Federal Reserve's policy-setting group will keep interest rates unchanged at its two-day meeting that starts today.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Currency cross-rates
MARK
STERLING
YEN
SFR
FF



FIRST STEPS - The Olympic team ready for the 1996 Games which begin in Atlanta on July 19. The delegation, which includes athletes, coaches, trainers and officials, will meet today at Beit Hamassi. The contingent, photographed at the Sharon Hotel in Herzliya, is led by Israel National Olympic Committee President Yoram Oberkowitz (middle row, 8th from left) and 1992 medalists Yael Arad and Oren Smedja (front row, 4th and 6th from left). Capsule biographies of the 25 athletes and a daily Olympic schedule will appear in the 'World of Sport' magazine on July 16. (Ilan Ossendyver/Tel Aviv Sun)

Torre's torrid Yanks stay atop AL East Graf, Sanchez Vicario reach quarters

CAN a Brooklyn boy and former Mets manager find happiness in the Bronx, despite a Boss who is known for breathing down his skipper's neck?
50 far, Joe Torre's done just that, keeping the Yankees loose despite a plague of injuries of almost Biblical proportions to lead them to a .595 winning percentage and a 4 1/2 game lead over the favored Baltimore Orioles in the American League East.
Amazingly, the Yanks have been in first since April 30. How's he doing it? "It's no secret," Torre said recently in a pre-game interview at Minnesota's Metrodome. "We're a good team - we play hard. I think the fact that we don't hit a lot of home runs makes us work hard because we know that we have a lot of components that have to work for us to win. It's just a good group of guys who want to win badly."
Torre's emphasis on the fundamentals was evident in last week's finale against the Twins, who hit the Yankees, 2-1. Little things done right, like rookie Andy Fox advancing catcher Joe Girardi

from second to third in the eighth inning to set up Derek Jeter's sac fly to tie the score at 1 was just one example. Torre has also brought a long absent running game to the Bronx Bombers, who were used to relying on the long ball. They've already stolen more bases in less than half a season than they did last year.
50 far, the easy-going Torre has also managed to keep his players loose, despite playing under the New York media spotlight, and just a phone call away from The Boss.
Going into the weekend series with the Orioles, the Yanks had won 41 of their last 57 home games (.730) dating back to last August 21, and had not lost consecutive games at the Stadium during that period, their longest such streak since 1963. "We're enjoying ourselves - we play well at home, we've been playing well against good teams, so our confidence is very high," says Torre.
One of the reasons for the high spirits is rightfielder Paul O'Neill, who started the season flirting with .400 but has compensated for a slight cooling-off period with

his rocket arm.
Trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the ninth, the Twins got runners on the corners with one out. Pat Meares, a pinch-runner who had been thrown out at the plate by O'Neill on a no-bop throw the day before, watched as Chuck Knoblauch hit a medium fly ball to O'Neill which certainly had a chance of scoring him. Instead, Meares took oary a step off the bag as O'Neill fielded it cleanly and uncorked another fine throw home. Evidently, Meares wasn't too interested to see if lightning could strike twice in the same place.
O'Neill hasn't been the only one to shine on defense. Catcher Joe Girardi's quick hands prevented three wild pitches in the game against the Twins, and crucial plays by rookie shortstop Jeter, who has played in 75 of the club's 79 games is sure to put him near the top of the first-year crop.
The pitching has received a spot in the arm from a very unex-

pected source: Dwight (Doc) Gooden (7-4), whose return to form from a series of drug and alcohol problems has been an inspiration.
"Doc picked us up when we needed a big lift," says Torre. "We lost David Cone and Doc Gooden went back into the starting rotation and he's been pitching lights out. He's been absolutely fantastic - not only did he pitch the no-hitter, he stopped a couple of losing streaks for us and it's very important that we have his experience and his ability pitching for us."
Cone made 12 light tosses last week, but Torre said it would take him six weeks to get ready once he is healthy, and clearly isn't counting on Cone in the regular season, if at all, making Gooden that much more important.
Ironically, the person who probably deserves as much credit as anyone for the Yanks' success is the man Yankee fans love to hate: George Steinbrenner. Finally grasping the "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" approach to ownership, The Boss has left GM Bob Watson and Torre to run things, leaving the New York

press with little on the George front other than the current dispute over his desire to get the club a new stadium.
"George has his input, obviously, but Bob Watson and the other baseball people hopefully make most of the decisions," says Willie Randolph, who's seen it all as a player and coach with the Yanks. "If George thinks we need a pitcher or two or somebody, he's going to try to get us someone we need. But as for letting the young kids play, you need to do that. Otherwise, when are they going to learn how to play?"
When you look at the people we have on the field this year - they're home-grown, and I think we can be proud of that fact."
In the final analysis, it's still been Torre - who never achieved much success as a manager in the National League - who's been so important to the club's success. While some raised eyebrows when he was named Yankee manager, he's proven them wrong. "He knows what it takes to win," says Randolph. "And to Joe's credit, he's helping us do it."

WIMBLEDON (AP) - Defending champion Steffi Graf beat 15-year-old Martina Hingis in straight sets yesterday to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals on a rainy, blustery day.
In a Centre Court match twice suspended by rain, the top-seeded Graf used her big serve and forehand to beat No. 16 Hingis 6-1, 6-4. The match lasted 55 minutes of actual playing time but took 1:45 because of the rain breaks.
The victory avenged the only tournament defeat Graf has suffered this year, a three-set loss to Hingis at the Italian Open in May.
"I think I was probably on top right from the beginning," Graf said. "Because I lost my last match against her, I didn't want to give her the chance to get into the match."
Aranza Sanchez Vicario, the fourth seed and last year's runner-up, rallied from a set and 0-2 down to beat Belgium's Sabine Appelmans, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.
Mary Pierce, the 13th seed, advanced to her first Wimbledon quarter-final with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Russia's Elena Likhovtseva.
Meredyth McGrath reached her first Grand Slam quarter-final with a 6-4, 6-0 win over Katarina Studenikova, the talented Slovak who ousted Monica Seles in the second round.
Tim Henman became the first British man in 23 years to reach the Wimbledon quarter-finals when he beat Sweden's Magnus Gustafsson 7-6(7-2), 6-4, 7-6(7-4) on Centre Court.
Henman, playing classic serve-and-volley tennis, came from 0-3 down in the second set and 3-5 in

the third. He led 4-0 and 6-2 in the third-set tiebreaker and squandered two match points before forcing an error by Gustafsson.
The last Briton to reach the final eight was Roger Taylor in 1973. He went on to lose in the semifinals. The last British man to win Wimbledon was Fred Perry in 1936.
Graf, who has been suffering from a swollen tendon in her left knee, wore a small bandage below the knee. Although she appeared to limp slightly at times, especially in the first set, her game did not appear to suffer.
Graf responded testily to comments by nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, who said Graf was exaggerating her injury as an excuse in case of a defeat.
"She's lucky she doesn't have to live with injuries," Graf said. "I think she should know better."
Graf raced out to a 4-0 lead, before double faulting twice and losing serve in the fifth game. The match was suspended by rain for about 20 minutes at 5-1. When play resumed, Graf saved a break point before closing out the set with an ace.
After another 20-minute break at 1-0 in the second set, Hingis began putting more pressure on Graf with her solid baseline game. Graf saved two break points in the sixth game, then broke in the next game with a forehand winner to go up 4-3.
At 5-3, Hingis saved two match points and held serve as Graf made four straight errors. But Graf served out the match at love in the next game, finishing with back-to-back aces.

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Swans end Carlton home win streak
MELBOURNE (AP) - The Sydney Swans became the first to defeat Carlton on its home turf in two years in weekend Australian Football League action.
The Swans trailed by 11 points Saturday after three quarters but rallied to kick six goals to two in the final term to win 15.12 (102) to 13.13 (91).
In Sunday matches, the West Coast Eagles beat Footscray 11.5 (71) to 9.5 (59) and Melbourne downed Adelaide 19.9 (123) to 10.12 (72), handing the Crows their fifth consecutive loss.
North Melbourne, after trailing by nine points at halftime, moved into first place with a 9.20 (74) to 8.10 (58) win Saturday over Fremantle.
Fitzroy's increasing off-field crisis was mirrored on the field when it lost by a record margin to Geelong. The Cats posted a record 127-point win over a downcast Fitzroy, 13 points more than their previous biggest winning margin set in 1932.
Geelong booted 25.16 (166) to 6.3 (39) in front of 10,504 spectators who may have witnessed Fitzroy's last outing. The Lions are in the hands of an administrator with debts totaling \$4 million and they only took the field after the league guaranteed the match payments.
St. Kilda kept its faint finals hopes alive with a 14.12 (96) to 7.8 (56) win over Brisbane. The Saints led by five goals at the last change and kept the Bears goalless in the last term while adding two majors.
In the other match Saturday, Essendon kept out a determined Hawthorn to win 18.13 (121) to 15.10 (100). The scores were level after three quarters before the Bombers kicked clear with four goals.
On Friday, Richmond kicked the first four goals of the game and won its third in a row, beating Collingwood by 23 points - 14.8 (92) to 10.9 (69).

Four-day county championship results
At Old Trafford: Lancashire vs. Somerset match abandoned due to rain. Lancashire 380-5 declared and 45-0 declared. Somerset 75-3 declared. Lancashire 8 points Somerset 5.
At Southampton: Essex vs. Surrey match abandoned due to rain. Surrey 476-8 declared and 167-2 (M. Butcher 85 not out). Essex 425-9 declared. Essex 8 points Surrey 10.
At Chester-le-Street: Durham vs. Gloucestershire match drawn. Durham 175 and 385-8 declared. Gloucestershire 166 and 150-2 (T. Hancock 59 not out, A. Wright 58). Durham and Gloucestershire 7 points.
At Lord's: Middlesex vs. Warwickshire match drawn. Middlesex 413 and 122-3. Warwickshire 455-9 declared (P. Tufnell 5-71). Middlesex 8 points Warwickshire 10.
At Worcester: Yorkshire beat Worcestershire by 111 runs. Yorkshire 321 and 266-7 declared (C. White, 65, M. Vaughan 63/80, M. Bevan 57). Worcestershire 355-9 declared and 121 (D. Gough 4-27). Yorkshire 23 points Worcestershire 8.

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE
NEIL Simon's Pulitzer Prize-winning, 1991 Broadway hit, Lost in Yonkers is the Jerusalem English-Speaking Theater's new show. It features Judith Ben-Susan as rigid Grandmama Kunitz and young JEST newcomers Gershon Fischer and Elisha Jacobsen as her grandsons, Jay and Arty. It's 1942 in Yonkers, New York, and nobody, not even Grandmama, realizes the effect the boys will have on this loveless family. Directed by Leah Stoller at Gerard Behar tonight and tomorrow at 8.

CANTORS

HELEN KAYE
SOME 250 of them will thrill their hearts out in "Shir Hamela" at the finale of The Silents Violin: A Salute to Yussle Rosenblatt, one of the all-time greats. The program is based on Rosenblatt's compositions and features some of the Jewish world's best cantors such as Benjamin Miller, Haim Adler, Haim Eliezer Herskic and David Weinbach. At David's Tower tonight at 8:30.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT
AFTER sweeping the audience with its Spanish program last week, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra is back on more familiar ground for its final subscription concert of the season. Music director David Shallon leads the world premiere of the overture "To Jerusalem" composed by Menahem Wiesenberg. Shallon concludes the season with Prokofiev's Fifth Symphony. In between Barry Douglas plays Beethoven's Fifth ("Emperor") Piano Concerto. Tomorrow and Thursday at the Henry Crown Symphony Hall in Jerusalem (8).

DANCE

MICHAEL AIZENSTADT
JERUSALEM dance buffs can enjoy the premiere of Coffee Cantata, a new three-part dance work created and performed by Yasmin Palmon and Guci Leo. Flutist Marcello Ehrlich provides the all-Bach accompaniment and the entire evening looks at the way we relate to baroque music, movement and aesthetics. At Habama in Talporet at 9 p.m.



Ralph Fiennes as Lenny Nero finds himself in a maze of paranoia, deception and murder in 'Strange Days.' (Merle W. Wallace)

CINEMA

ADINA HOFFMAN
*** STRANGE DAYS - Kathryn Bigelow's picture takes place a few hours before the apocalypse, on the last day and night of the 20th century. In roted-out Los Angeles, cars burn in the middle of every street, cops cruise the boulevards on tanks and bear suspects in full view of the passing mobs, and sad-sack hustler Lenny Nero (Ralph Fiennes) makes the rounds, pushing illegal, virtual-reality "clips" which provide his clients a temporary escape from their nightmare surroundings. Written by Jay Cocks and Bigelow's ex-husband Jay Cameron, the film is interesting and viscerally effective, though it ultimately falls victim to the familiar Catch-22 of so many movies about video culture. On the surface, the filmmakers seem to offer a critique of our society's endless hunger for steady, undemanding visual stimulation. At the same time they work like crazy to make sure that our hunger for steady, undemanding visual stimulation is sated in the course of the film. With Angela Bassett and Juliette Lewis. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 17 will not be admitted without an adult.)



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Horrify with a withdrawn Scandinavian (5)
4 Correct a cool-headed cleric (8)
10 Unsophisticated old city in S. African province (7)
11 Grain that is produced in Africa (7)
12 Your duty includes communication in Pakistan (4)
13 They're foolish taunts (5)
14 Eager for sextet to appear in commercial (4)
17 Understandable resolution of Chinese problem (14)
19 Only he is trusted to fulfil the European dream (8,8,4)
22 Drug one's feet if lacking energy (4)
23 Suddenly discover how to continue betting (3,2)
24 Some of the chaps ended up in church (4)
27 Huge meal must mean a spare tyre! (4-3)
28 Bounty was a big boat (7)
29 Bread is made even in Scotland (8)
30 Contemplated Eranchman being exploited (5)
DOWN
1 Declare that a couple of Poles carry little weight (8)
2 Frantic stop-over in East Germany (7)
3 Use it to fry the French way (4)
5 Pet lions cannot be set free. Capital! (14)
6 Impulse felt by a childless operator (4)
7 Appearance of a royal outlander (7)
8 Antelope from an oriental country (5)
9 Inform how to finish the game (4,3,7)
15 Opportunity for judge to imprison ringleader (5)
16 I have to put in the right bolt (6)
18 Let out and let out again (8)
20 Stress that the lost sheep has been found? (3,4)
21 Tyrannize journalists after work (7)
22 Pound sign (5)
25 He said history was bunk. That's shallow (4)
26 A strange plant (4)

General assistance section containing an emergency pharmacy list, duty hospitals, and first aid information. Includes contact numbers for various services and hospitals.

Quick crossword section with clues and solutions for across and down words. Includes a list of solutions for the cryptic crossword.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1
6:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel
EDUCATIONAL TV
8:00 Animated series 8:30 Tomcats 9:00 Goya, Gal and Gil 9:15 Kallirau 9:30 Little Marmalade 10:00 Little Women 10:30 Vacation Studio 13:00 Animated series about animals 13:30 Tomcats 14:00 Goya, Gal and Gil 14:15 Kallirau 14:30 Moonrains 15:00 Zornit.
CHANNEL 1
15:30 Zap on the wave 15:33 Tom and Jerry 15:50 Zap on the wave 16:00 Hebronski Hop - Australia! 16:30 18:45 Zap on the wave 18:59 A New Evening 17:34 Zap on the wave 17:50 Yaludus - animated 16:00 Zap on the wave 18:15 News in English

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)
16:00 Cartoons 16:30 On the Side of Justice 17:30 From Day to Day 18:00 Amrose 18:30 News in Arabic 18:30 International magazine on the arts 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Outstanding creations 21:00 Bish Bish - joint radio and TV chat show 22:15 Showcase 22:45 Cinema magazine 00:00 Closedown
ETV 2 (23)
15:30 Vacation Time 18:00 Alpine Academy 18:30 On Second Thought 19:00 The 19th Annual Family Relations 20:00 A New Evening (Russian subtitles) 20:30 Welcome to France 21:00 Female Perspective 21:30 Francis Bacon and the Brutality of Fact 22:30 Star Trek: The Next Generation 23:15 Mother and Son
FAMILY CHANNEL (3)
8:00 Falcon Crest (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt) 9:45 The Young and the Restless (pt) 10:30 Days of Our Lives (pt) 11:30 The Young and the Restless (pt) 12:10 Neighbors (pt) 12:35 Dallas (pt) 13:30 Starting at 1:30 14:05 21 Jump Street 14:55 Falcon Crest 15:50 Days of Our Lives 16:40 Neighbors 17:10 Dallas 18:00 One Life to Live 18:45 The Young and the Restless 19:30 Local broadcast 20:00 Paris Negro 20:50 Hills 90210 21:40 Welcome to Paradise (1994) - three friends take a vacation at Daytona Beach with Shelley Long and Mel Harris. Directed by Bill Norton (110 mins.) 23:10 Sapir 23:20 Wings 23:45 Metrolife 04:30 Sweet Charity 1:25 Rosie O'Donnell
MOVIE CHANNEL (4)
13:00 Me and the Kid (1993) - inept thieves kidnap a wealthy boy and regret it. With Danny Aiello (pt) 14:40 Paradise, Hawaii Style (1985) - Eva Marie Saint as a widow who runs a charter service. With Suzanna Leigh. Directed by Michael Moore (87 mins.) 16:10 The Wonder Years 16:40 Les Pitifs (1991, French) - Italian immigrants struggle in a small French town (pt) 16:55 Special on Jumanji 20:20 Star Trek: Voyager (1995) - Laika: Watching the children of her late husband when their biological mother returns to

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POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101
Magan David Adom: In emergencies dial 101 (Hebrew) or 911 (English) in most parts of the country. In addition:
Ashdod 551333 Kir Sava 92222
Nahariya 512333
Beersheva 274787 Netanya 504444
Beit Shean 323133 Pishai Tikva 831111
Dun Regior 578333 Rehovot 451333
Eilat 324444 Rehovot 464233
Hefa 851223 Seld 923333
Tel Aviv 5480111
Karmiel 825444 Yotvata 72444
* Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU) service in the area, around the clock.
Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110
The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-8529225, for emergency calls 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning:
Eilat - Eilatot, First Aid, 1201, also: Jerusalem 810283, Tel Aviv 5481111 (ch. drenshy 6961113), Hefa 86722223, Beersheva 494333, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 9888770, Kir Sava 7674565, Hadera 345789.
Wato hotlines for battered women: 6514111, 03-5481133 (in Russian), 07-376310, 08-550306 (also in Armenian).
Rape Crisis Centre (24 hours), Tel Aviv 5294816, Haifa 181 (en), Jerusalem 255258, Hefa 8535333, Eilat 91777.
Hadesash Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support service 02-247578.

CINEMA

JERUSALEM
J.G. Gil Jerusalem Mall (Hafa) 78948 White Squall 11:30 a.m., 4:30, 7:15, 10 p.m.
Primal Fear/Circle 4:30 a.m., 4:30, 7:15, 10 p.m.
American Quilt/Fargo 11:30 a.m., 4:45, 7:15, 9:45 + Las Miserables 11:30 a.m., 5:30, 9:45 + Grumpy Old Men 7:15, 9:45 + The Secret of Ryan's High School 7:30, 9:45 + RAV-CHEN 4782798 Credit Card Reservations: 794477 Rav-Mecher Building, 19 Haromen St., Talporet The Juror 5, 7:30, 9:45 + The Hunchback of Notre Dame 11 a.m., 1, 5 + The Hunchback of Notre Dame (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45 + Blue 7:30, 9:45 + Jumanji 11 a.m., 1:15, 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Gir 8:45 + Now and Then 11 a.m., 1, 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Ace Ventura/Orcula, Dead and Living It 11 a.m., 1, 5 + Toy Story (Hebrew dialogue) 11 a.m., 1, 5 + Toy Story (English dialogue) 7:30, 9:45
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Knesset spends day fighting road accidents

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset devoted a day of meetings to fighting the war on the roads yesterday, during which the new Speaker, Dan Tichon, said he wanted to see results, not hear more talk. "We won't be satisfied with just plenum debates," Tichon said. "I intend to establish a Knesset committee to meet weekly, prepare work plans, and coordinate the work of relevant bodies in order to keep the matter on the agenda."

Tichon initiated a meeting with several ministers on the subject, but his approach angered some members of the new government. He demanded that a program to combat road accidents be presented to the Knesset before its recess at the end of the month.

"I want to hear what is being done not what will be done," he said. Justice Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman backed Tichon, saying: "What you can't do in two weeks, you'll never be able to do."

Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said they needed more time. Kahalani said the major problem is one of education and that takes time to see the results.

Tichon said he was disappointed with Levy and Kahalani's attitude. "We've heard this all before," Tichon said.

Ne'eman proposed stricter law enforcement and expedited trials

for traffic offenders. He also called for a team to be created to present the government within a week with a list of recommendations for action and a timetable for their enactment.

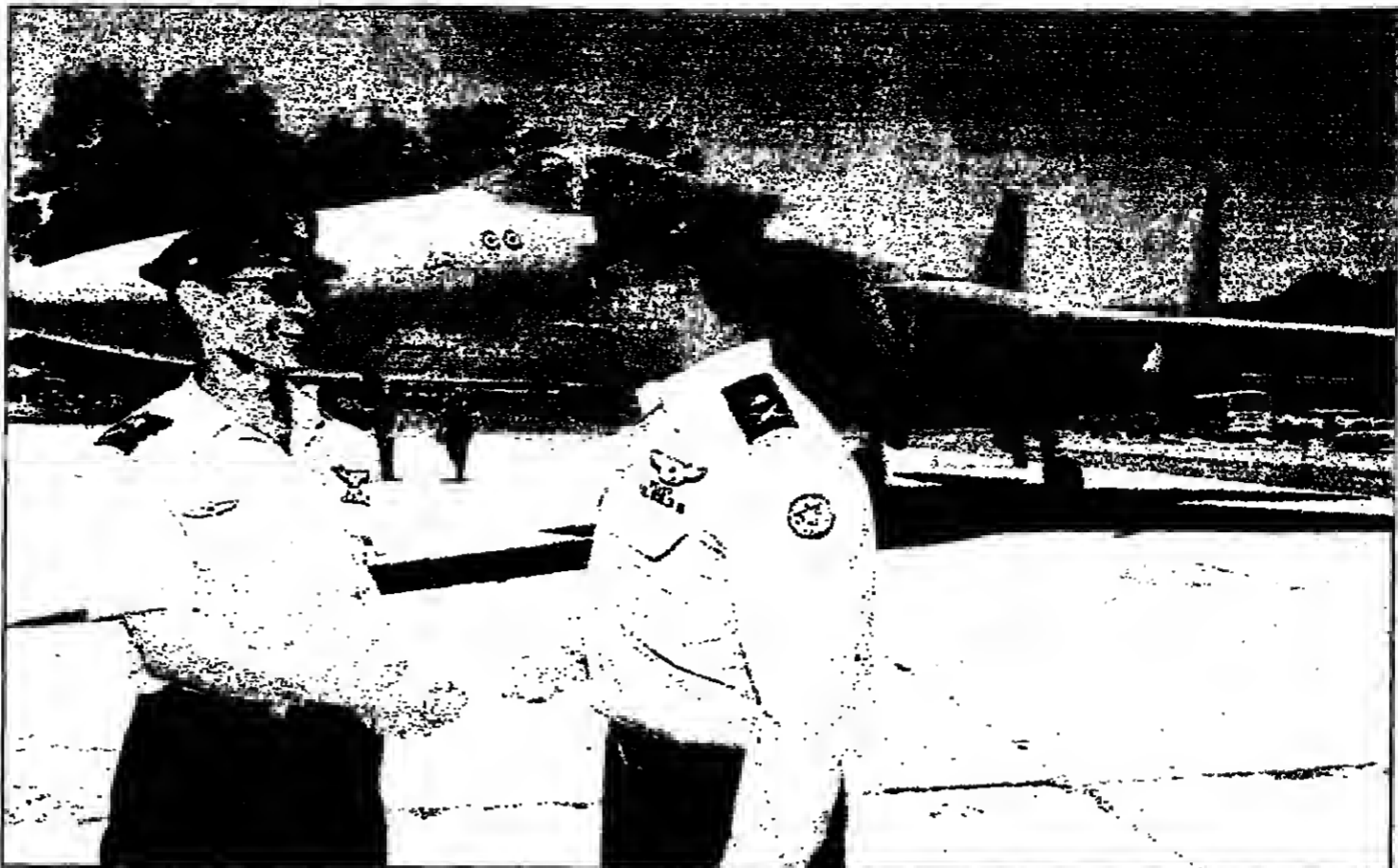
Kahalani called for a greater police presence on the roads, and Levy proposed an aggressive public information campaign on road safety.

Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi urged the Knesset to continue to promote the bill for road safety which he co-sponsored in the last Knesset and which has the support of 91 MKs. The bill calls for an umbrella authority to deal with all the bodies handling aspects of the war on road accidents and to prepare an emergency program.

He said government expenditure on road safety would be well-spent. "The national economy loses NIS3.6 billion a year as a direct result of accidents," he said.

At one point, Kahalani left the meeting, saying he was insulted by Tichon's manner which he described as "brutal."

In a later plenum debate, scores of MKs spoke on the subject. The suggestions raised ranged from having an electronic board in the plenum with the numbers of fatalities (MK Eli Goldschmidt, Labor) to appointing Ariel Sharon as the Minister for the War on Road Accidents (MK Yossi Katz, Labor).



Former OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger (left) congratulates his successor Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliahu after yesterday's change of command ceremony. (Guy Eyal/IDF Spokesman)

Ben-Eliahu takes command of air force

MAJ.-GEN. Eitan Ben-Eliahu took over command of the air force yesterday from Maj.-Gen. Herzl Bodinger, who is retiring after 35 years in the air force, the last four and a half of them as its commander.

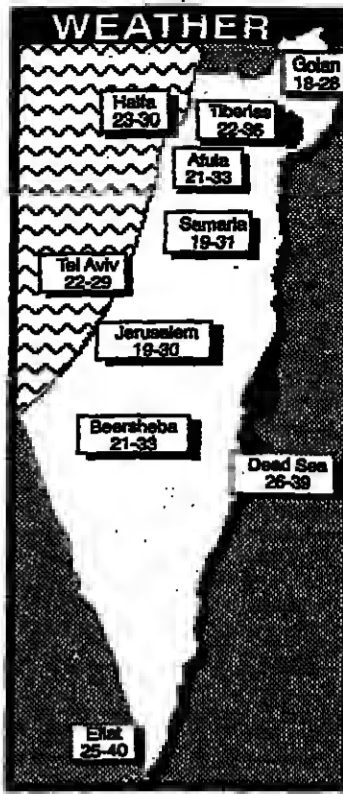
In a ceremony at Ramat David air base, Bodinger passed the air force flag to Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, who in turn handed it to Ben-Eliahu, as four F-15s flew over in formation.

In his farewell address, Bodinger said that the air force "is the IDF's principle source of firepower." He also recalled his comrades-in-arms who sacrificed their lives for their country, and said that he and every airman prays for the return of the bodies of the missing in action and for the safe return of Ron Arad "after 10 years of Iranian captivity."

He then turned to Ben-Eliahu and said: "Take it," the phrase one pilot uses when he

hands over control of the plane to another.

"I, Eitan Ben-Eliahu, grew up in Jerusalem in the house of my father Ezra," the new OC Air Force said, upon assuming command. "I graduated pilots' course No. 44, and took part in the War of Attrition and every succeeding operation. I accept with honor the trust you are placing in me, my officers and soldiers, and I will do everything in my power to meet the challenge." (Tum)



AROUND THE WORLD

Location	Low	High	Cloud
Amsterdam	10	15	cloudy
Berlin	12	17	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	23	partly cloudy
Frankfurt	13	18	cloudy
Geneva	14	19	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	clear
Jakarta	24	29	clear
London	17	22	clear
Los Angeles	18	23	clear
Moscow	15	20	clear
Paris	16	21	partly cloudy
Rome	18	23	partly cloudy
Sydney	19	24	partly cloudy

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, queen of hearts, nine of diamonds and king of clubs.

Police crack down on reckless drivers

TRAFFIC police launched a crackdown yesterday on reckless driving, aimed at making the roads safer during the summer vacation period. The month-long campaign was planned in advance of June's increase in fatal traffic accidents.

"Our presence will be beefed up in those areas where traffic is expected to be high, due to vacationers," said deputy commander Berri Obiyan, head of the National Police Traffic Department.

In the north, traffic police will be concentrating their enforcement efforts around the Kinneret. There will be an increased police presence on highways throughout the country. On weekends, police are targeting areas that have a high concentration of pubs and nightclubs. Obiyan said police were in particular beefing up their presence on the Arava Highway to Eilat. The highway has the reputation of being one of the most dangerous in the country.

SCORES of Jewish and Arab residents of the Western Galilee demonstrated yesterday in Jerusalem against plans to build an industrial zone on 1,000 dunams of land south of Kibbutz Kabri.

The protesters, who staged a colorful and peaceful demonstration opposite the Interior Ministry, charged that the proposed site is directly on top of natural springs and an underground reservoir which are the main source of drinking water for the region.

They erected a stage and put on a play symbolizing the effects of industrial pollution on the environment, particularly the water resources.

Alon Porat, a resident of Klil village and a leading member of the Citizens For the Environment (CFE) in the Galilee which organized the demonstration, said more than 350 people had made the trek to the capital to take part in the protest.

The environmentalists maintain the proposed project was approved at the last minute by former interior minister Haim Ramon, despite having been rejected by previous ministers because of the threat to the water

DAVID RUDGE

sources at the site.

CFE leaders met with Interior Minister Eli Suissa after the demonstration to press for the cancellation of the project and for the site to be reclassified as an area for tourism and not industry.

"We are not opposed to the concept of an industrial zone in the region generally but not on a site, wherever it might be, where water sources would be threatened," said Porat.

Yehuda Shavit, head of the Mateb Asher regional council which has put forward the proposal for the new industrial zone,

stressed that the alternative sites had also been rejected for different reasons.

"A survey by the Ministry of Trade and Industry found that this particular site is the most suitable and everything would done to comply with regulations," said Savit.

Liav Collins adds: Former environment minister Yossi Sarid (Meretz) said the siting of the industrial zone is a mistake which cannot be allowed. He said he spent four years in office thwarting plans to establish the industrial area close to water sources.

MK Michael Nudelman (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said yesterday that

"establishing an industrial zone in the Western Galilee will cause irreversible harm to water sources, because there are 27 springs within a four kilometer radius of the planned site. The decision to establish the industrial zone at that particular spot is scandalous and must be rescinded."

Nudelman, an environmental economist, hopes to head the environmental caucus within the Knesset and is seeking to create a separate Knesset committee for the environment. He called on Suissa to cancel the go-ahead his predecessor Ramon gave for the industrial zone two days before the elections.

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Upper Nazareth mayor hits back at opponents of industrial zone

UPPER Nazareth Mayor Menachem Ariav hit back yesterday at opponents of plans to expand the Tziporit industrial zone in the Lower Galilee.

Residents of Hoshaya and some neighboring Arab villages staged a noisy demonstration yesterday evening outside the entrance to the zone, between the Beir Rimon

and Hamovil junctions.

The residents maintain there is no need to expand the industrial area, and that any more factories there would increase pollution in the region. They have also expressed concern that additional

pollution from the site, which currently houses the giant Phoenicia glassworks plant and a smaller factory, could endanger the quality of water in the nearby reservoirs of the National Water Carrier.

Ariav, however, rejected the arguments, charging that the claims of the Hoshaya residents were "untrue and based on egoistic and personal interests" which did not take into account vital national and regional needs.

"The region in which the 120 Hoshaya families live was earmarked from the outset for resi-

dential and industrial use and they were aware of this before moving there," said Ariav.

"Despite the fact that we were not obliged to do so, we tried to reach an agreement with the residents of Hoshaya which would be satisfactory to all the sides.

"Some of the residents agreed to the accords that were reached, but extremists among them rejected the agreements and said they were not prepared to accept any compromise, or any industry of any kind in their area."

Ariav noted that the population of Upper Nazareth had doubled in the past five years from 23,000 to 46,000.

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